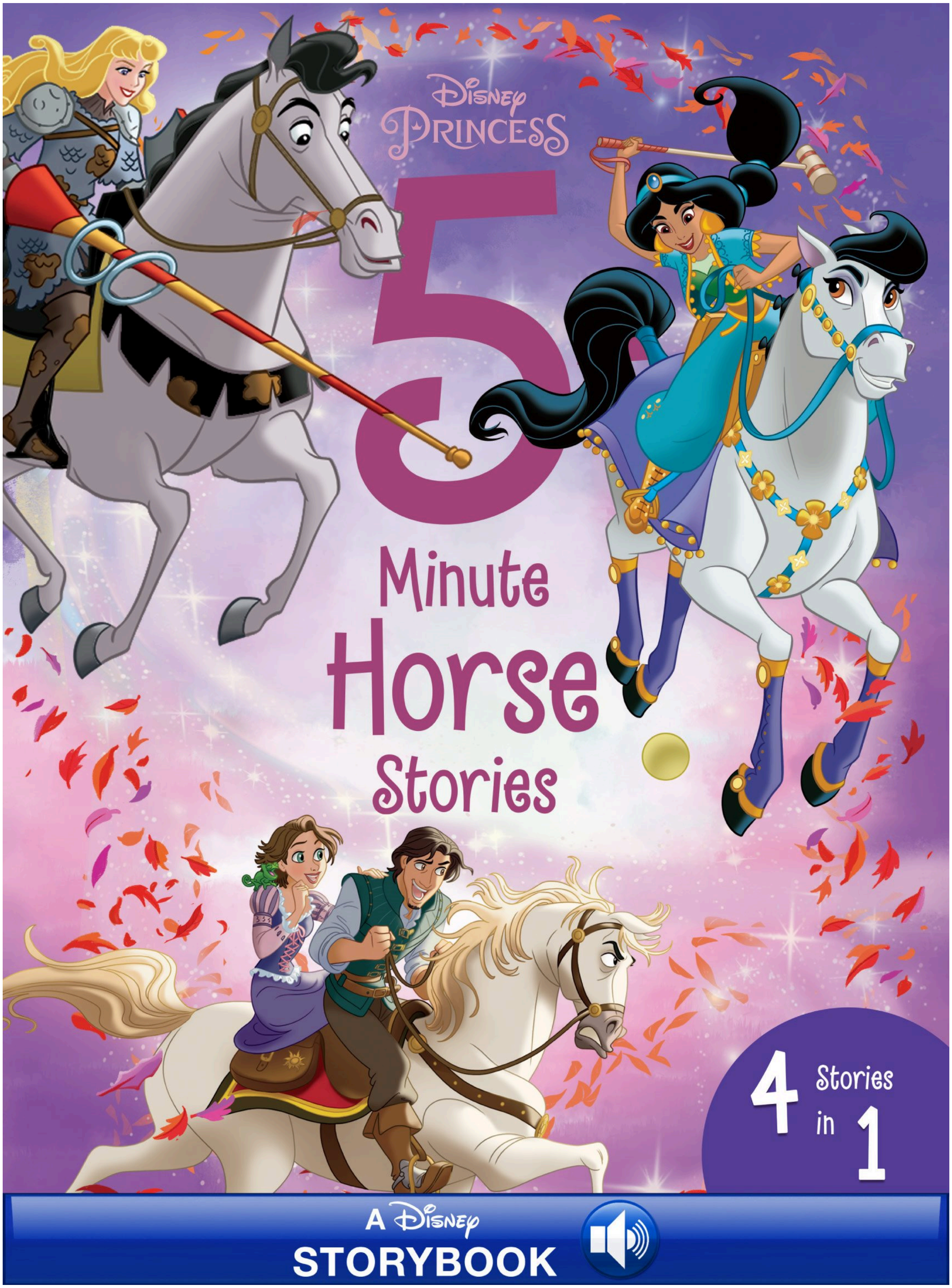
Disney Princess

5 Minute Horse Stories

4 Stories in 1

A Disney STORYBOOK



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5-Minute Horse Stories

Disney Press
Los Angeles • New York

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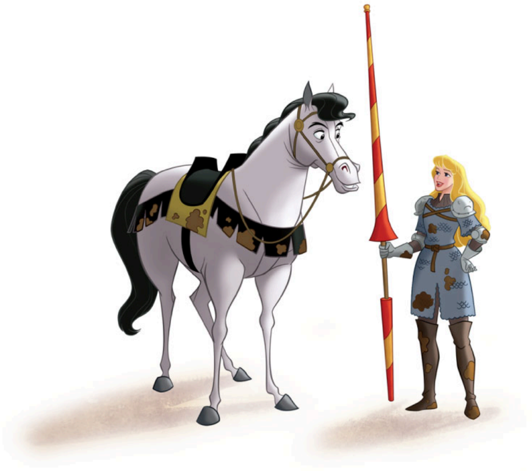
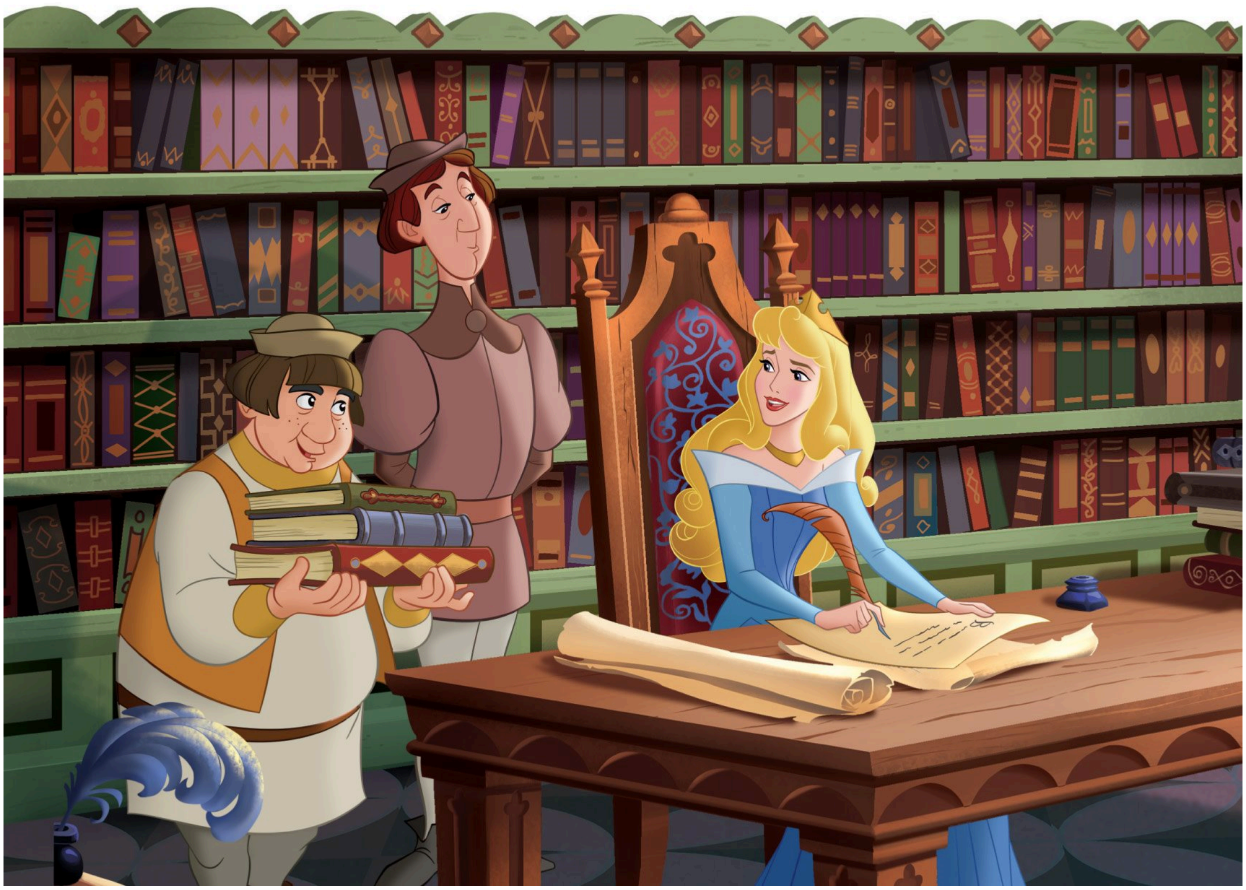


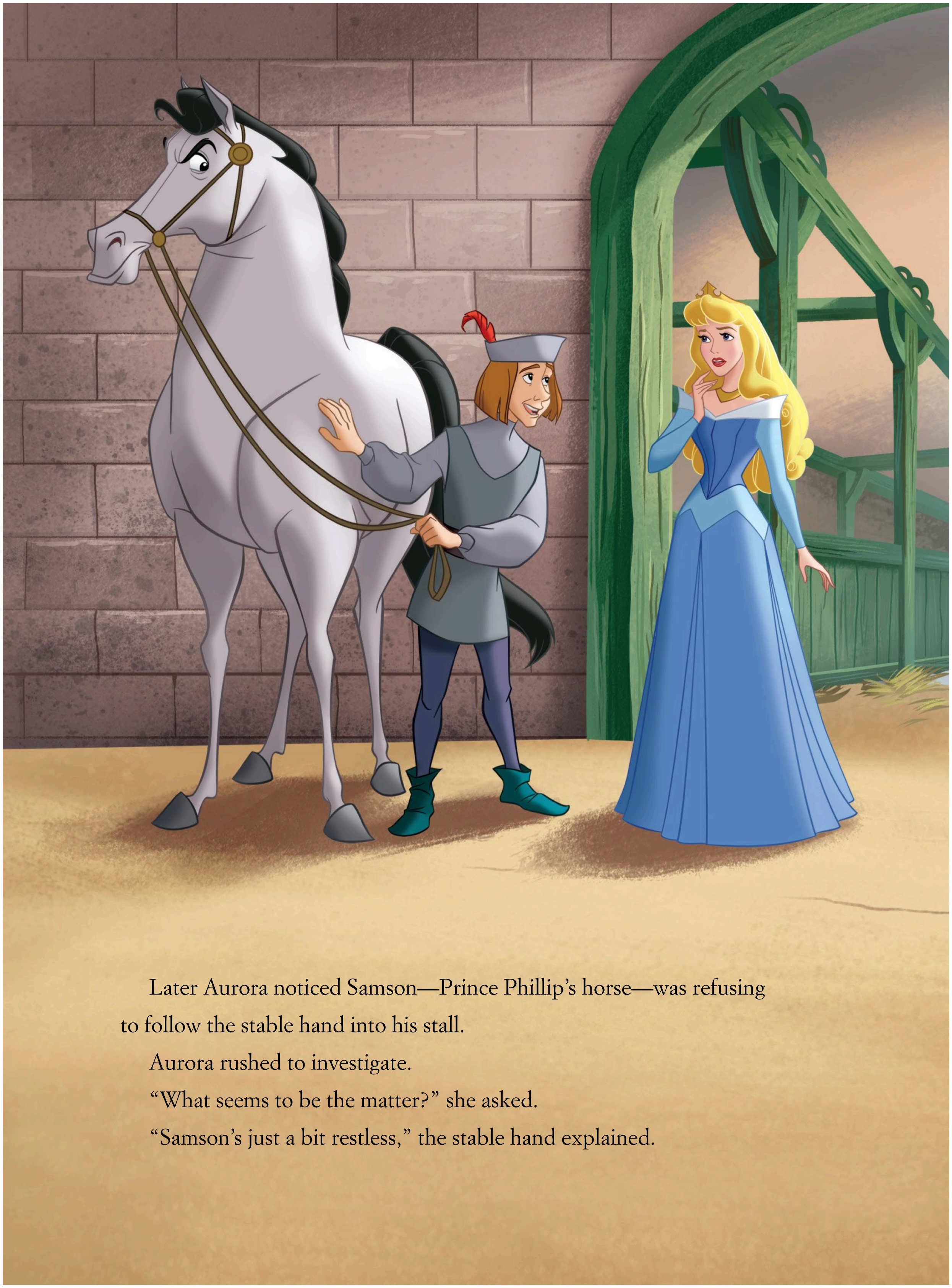
Disney Sleeping Beauty

Aurora and the Joust

Aurora loved being a princess. But after spending so much time in a quiet cottage, her life at the castle was often a bit overwhelming.

One day Aurora was embellishing a flag for the upcoming joust. Soon the whole kingdom would gather to watch knights compete on horseback.





Later Aurora noticed Samson—Prince Phillip's horse—was refusing to follow the stable hand into his stall.

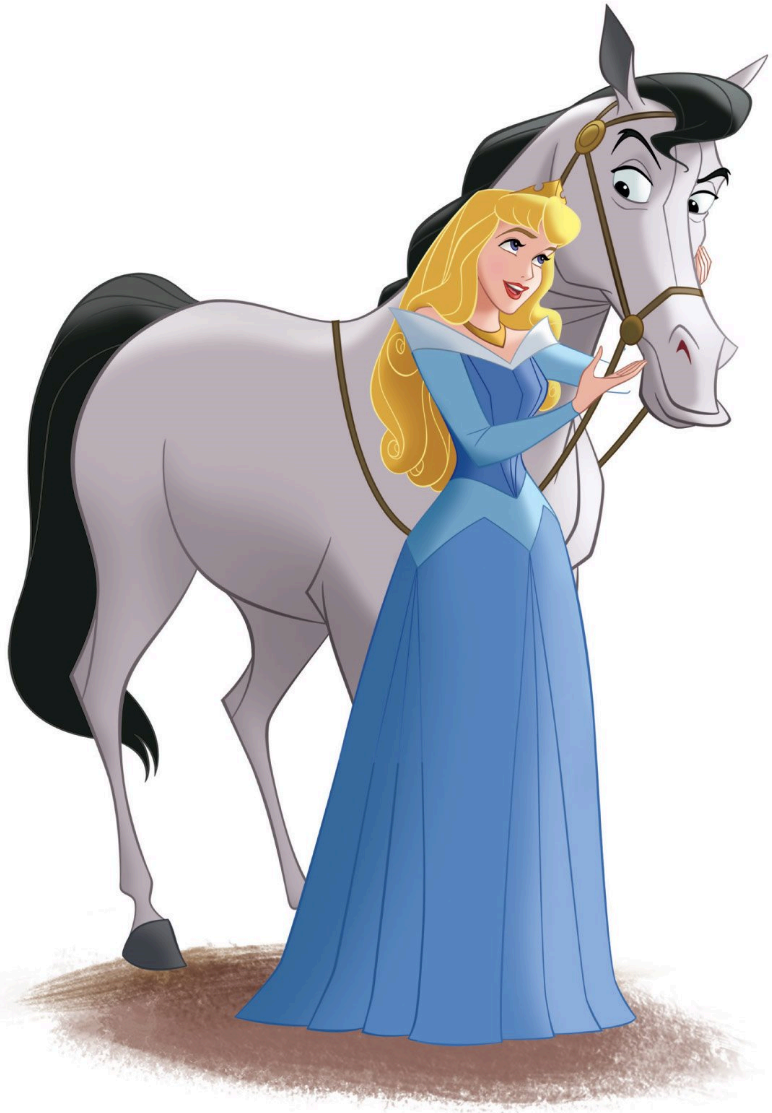
Aurora rushed to investigate.

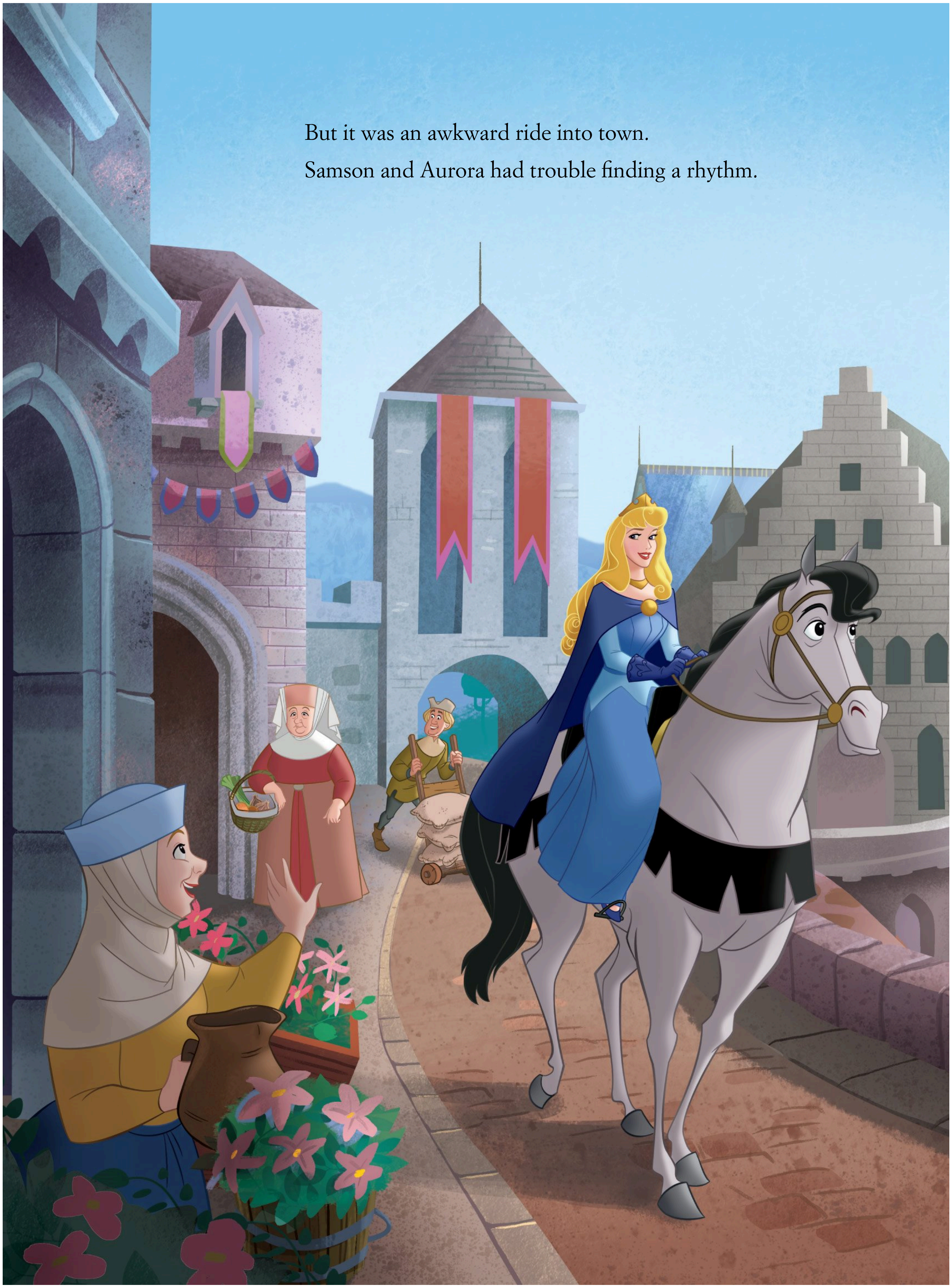
"What seems to be the matter?" she asked.

"Samson's just a bit restless," the stable hand explained.

“The prince is traveling, so the horse won’t get to compete in the joust,” he continued.

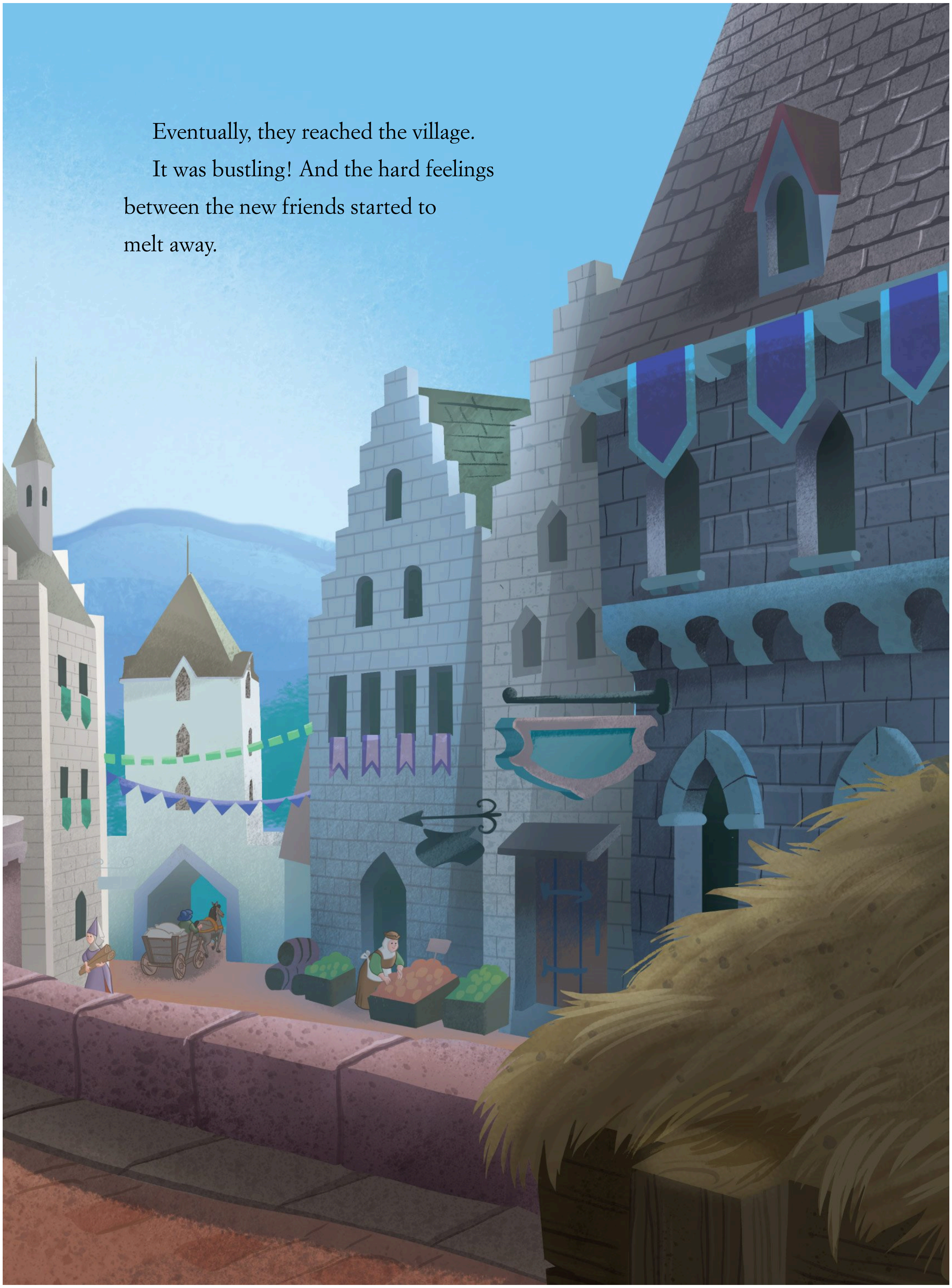
“It seems like we both could use some fresh air,” Aurora said to Samson. “I’d like to take you somewhere special.”

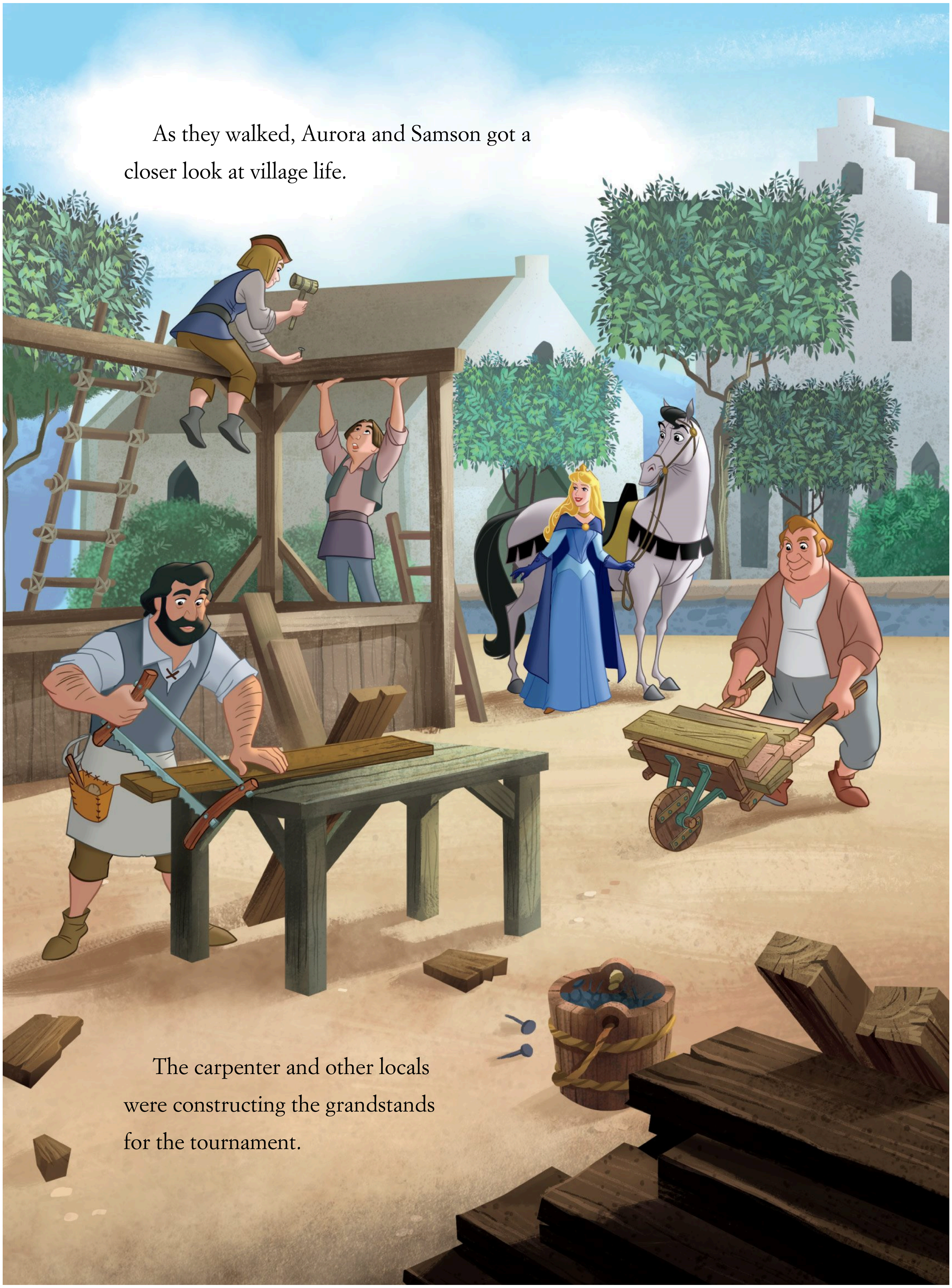




But it was an awkward ride into town.
Samson and Aurora had trouble finding a rhythm.

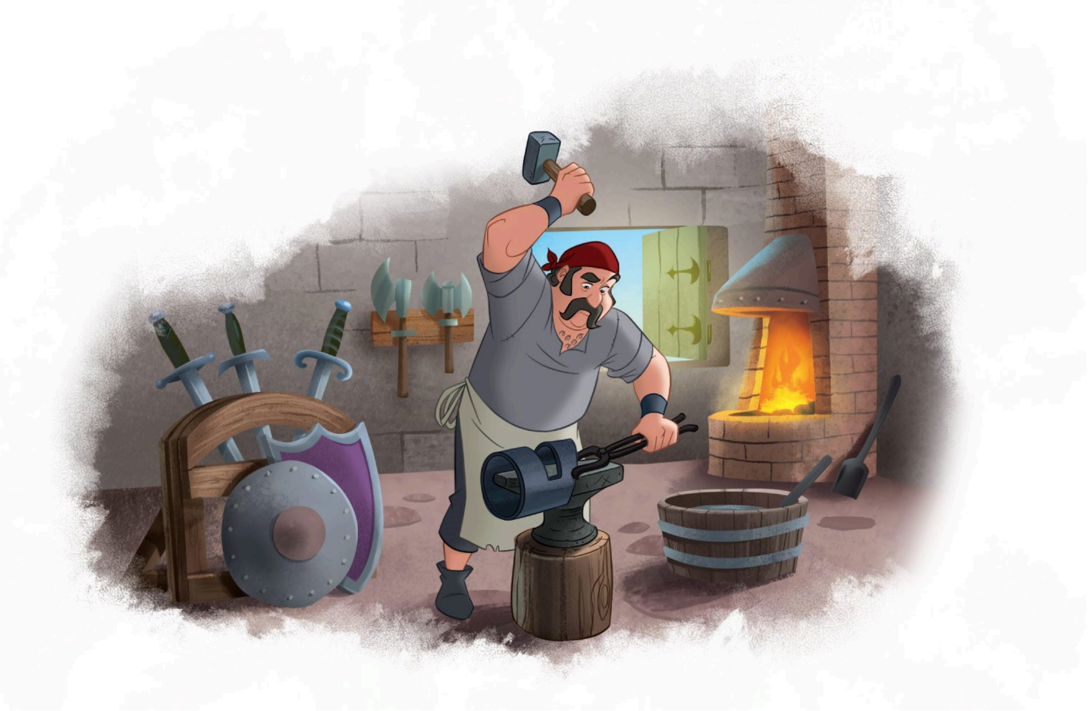
Eventually, they reached the village. It was bustling! And the hard feelings between the new friends started to melt away.





As they walked, Aurora and Samson got a closer look at village life.

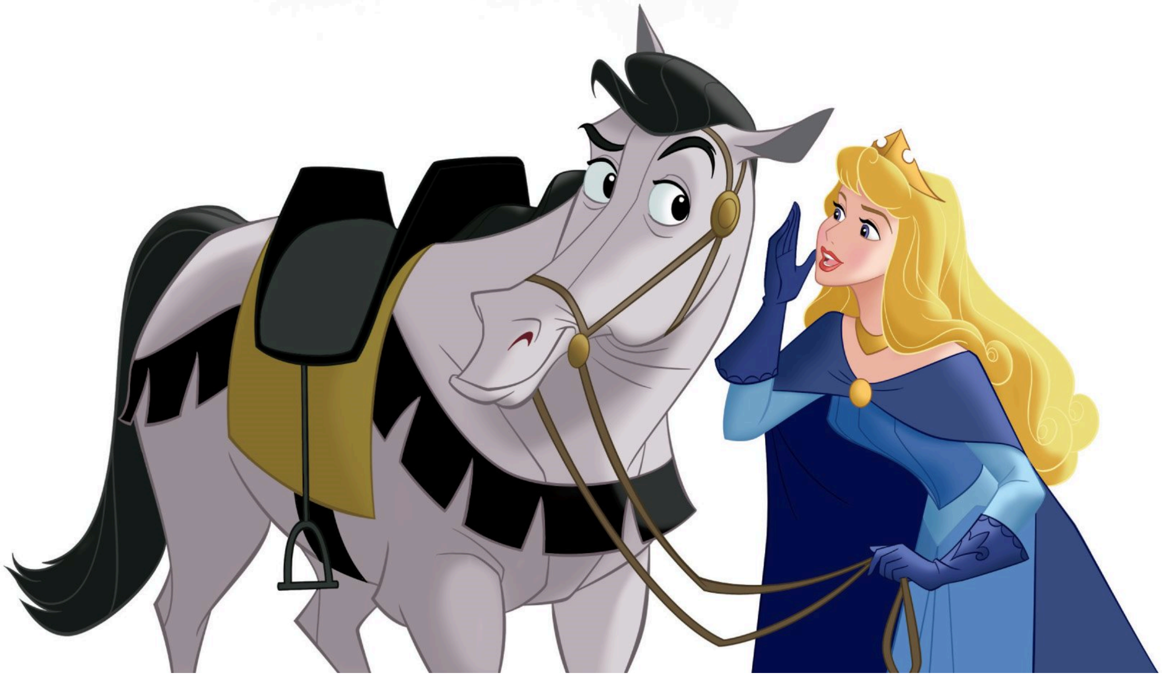
The carpenter and other locals were constructing the grandstands for the tournament.

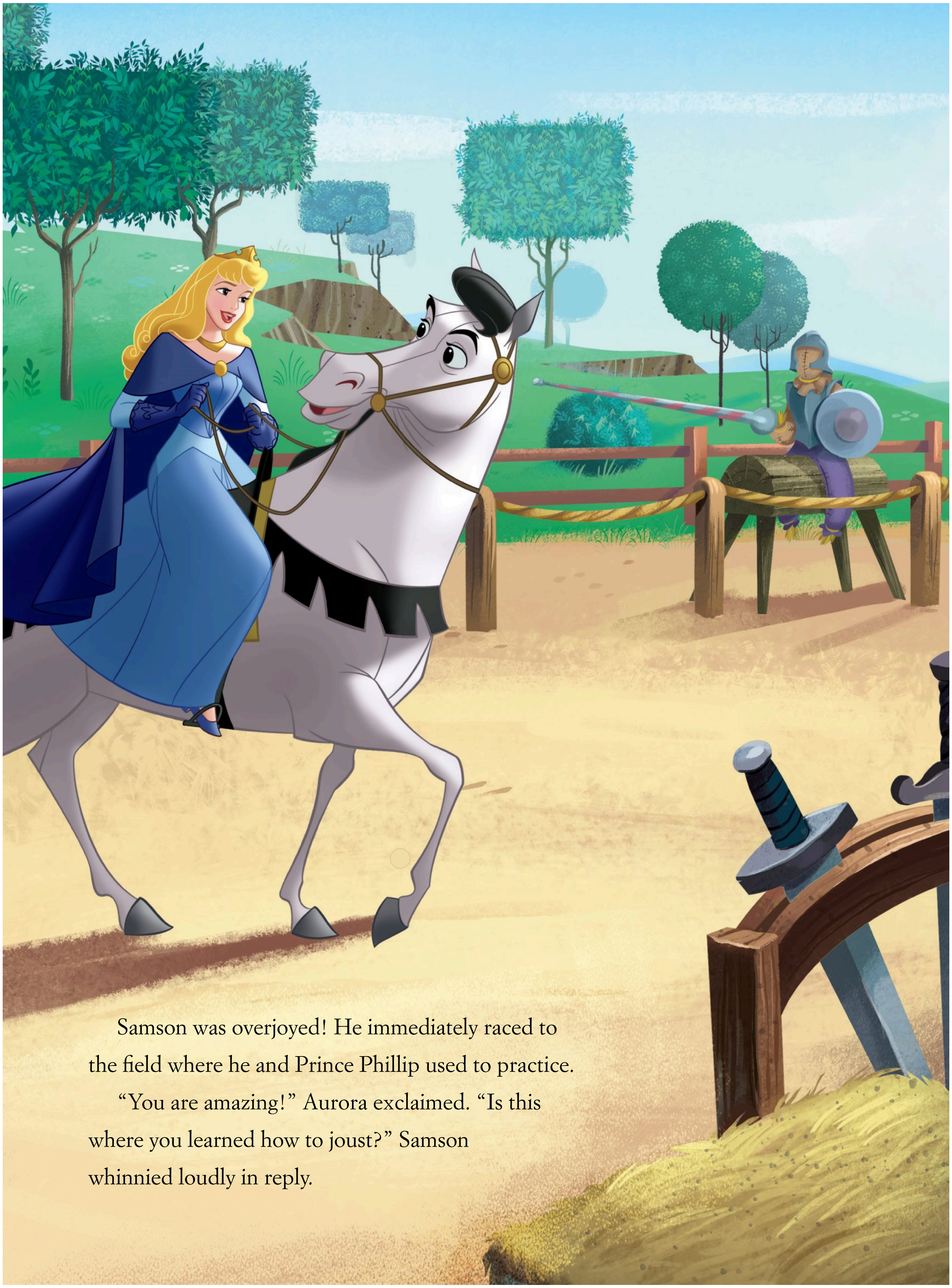


The blacksmith was forging a helmet for a knight.

Just then, Aurora had an idea.

“What if we compete in the joust together?” she whispered to Samson.





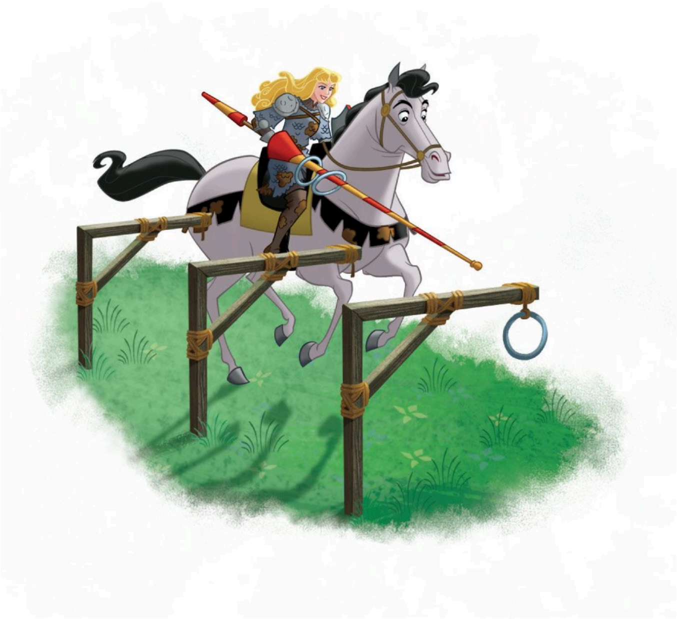
Samson was overjoyed! He immediately raced to the field where he and Prince Phillip used to practice.

"You are amazing!" Aurora exclaimed. "Is this where you learned how to joust?" Samson whinnied loudly in reply.

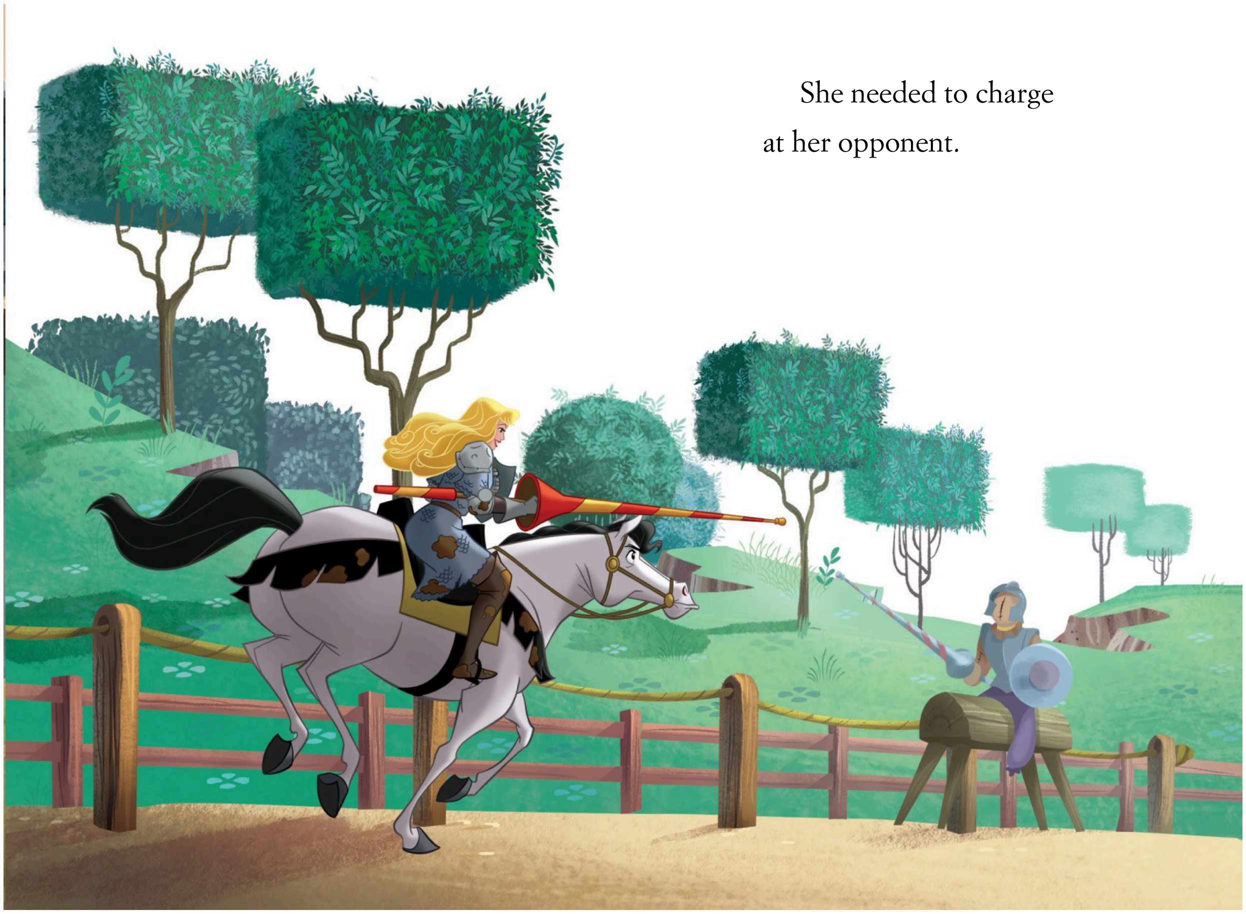
The tournament was in one week, and there was so much to learn.

In the joust, Aurora would have three challenges.

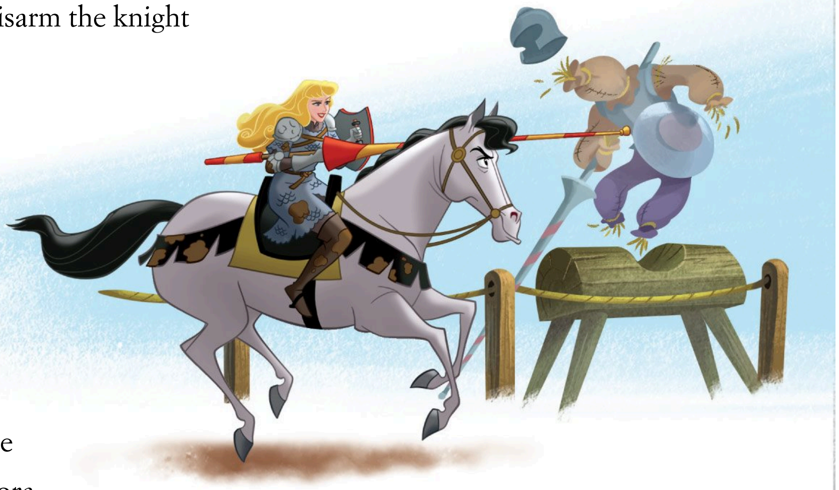
She had to thread her lance through a series of rings.



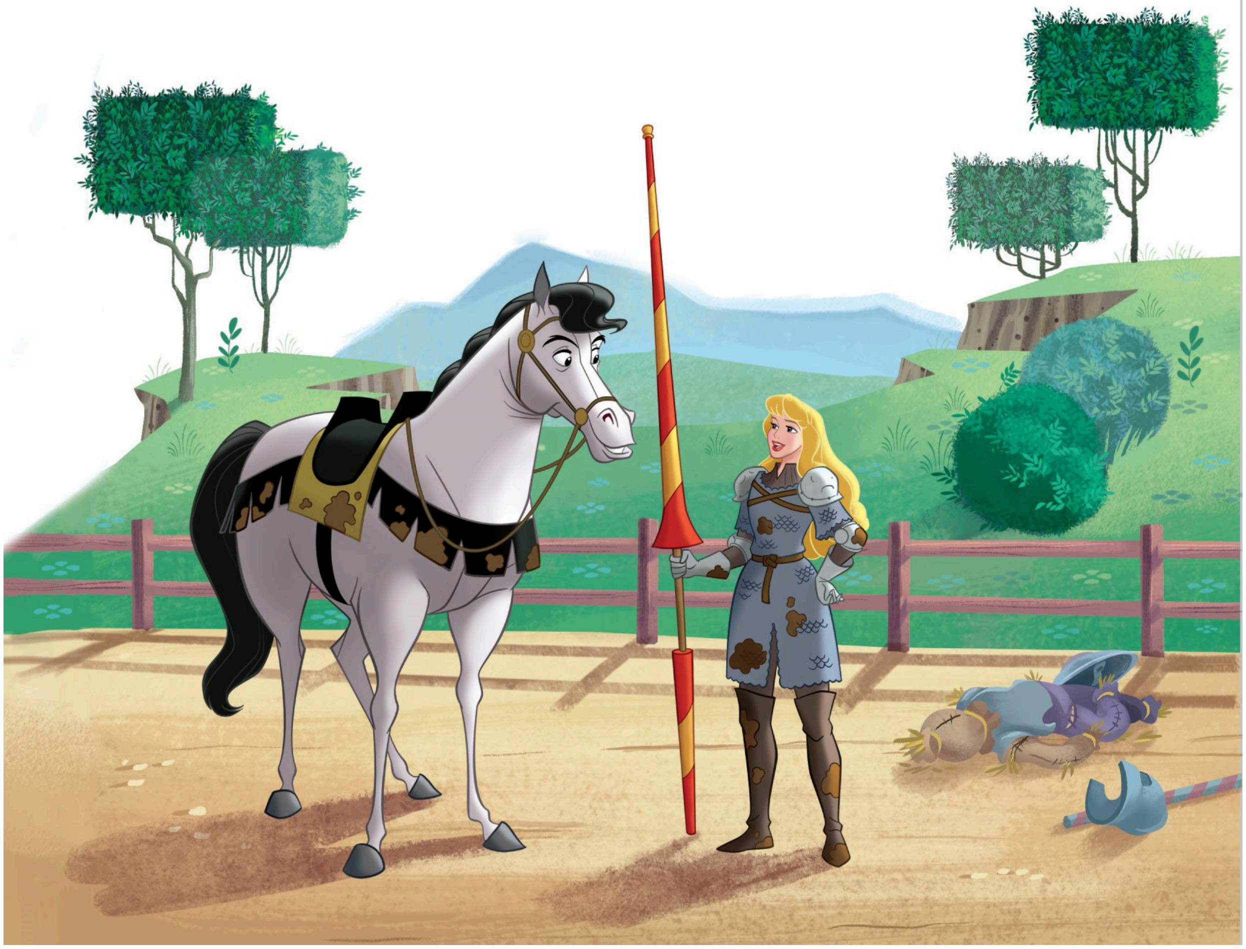
She needed to charge at her opponent.

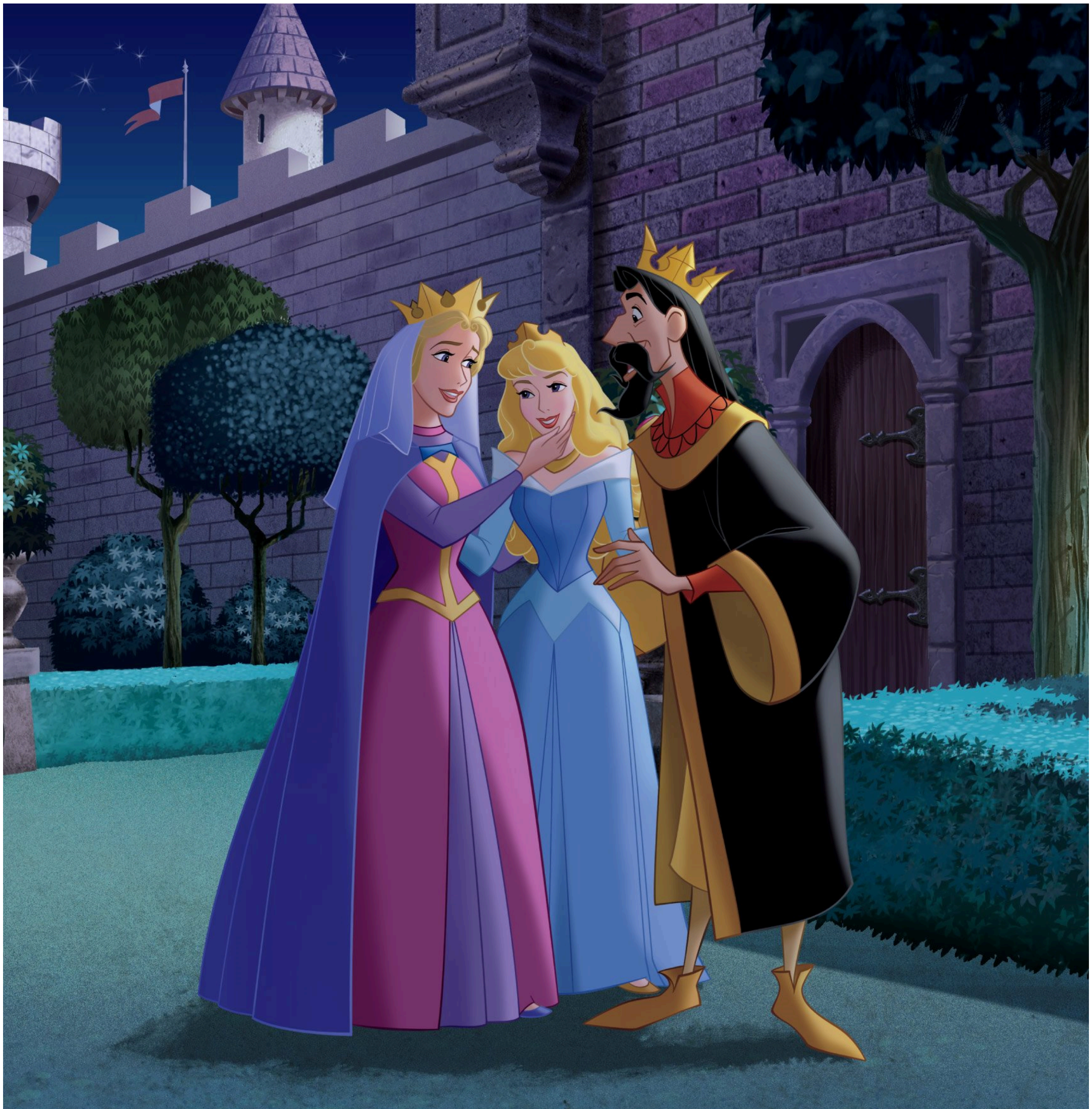


And she had to disarm the knight
pitted against her.



Practicing all three
was fun. But for Aurora,
spending time with Samson was the highlight of each afternoon.



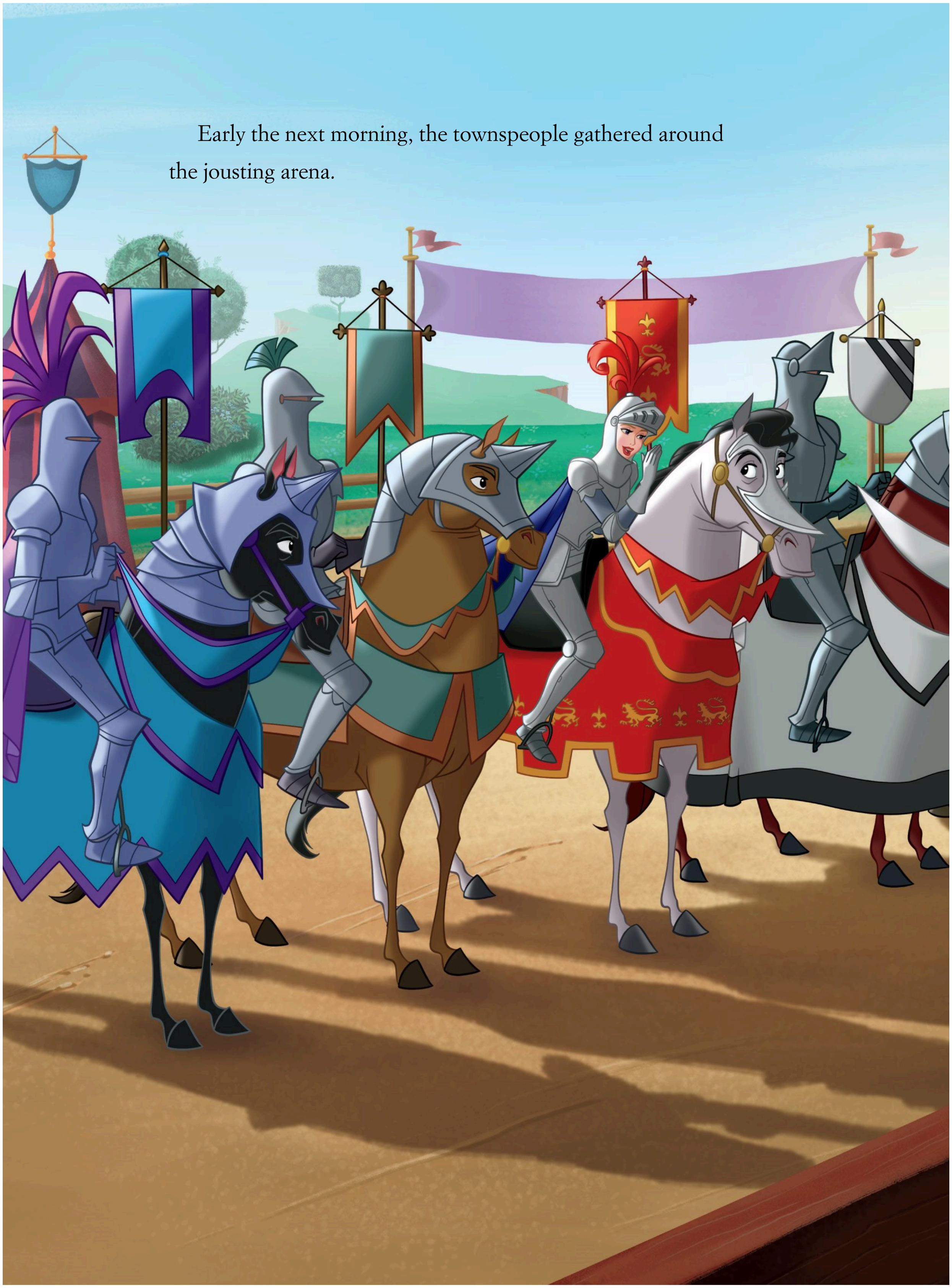


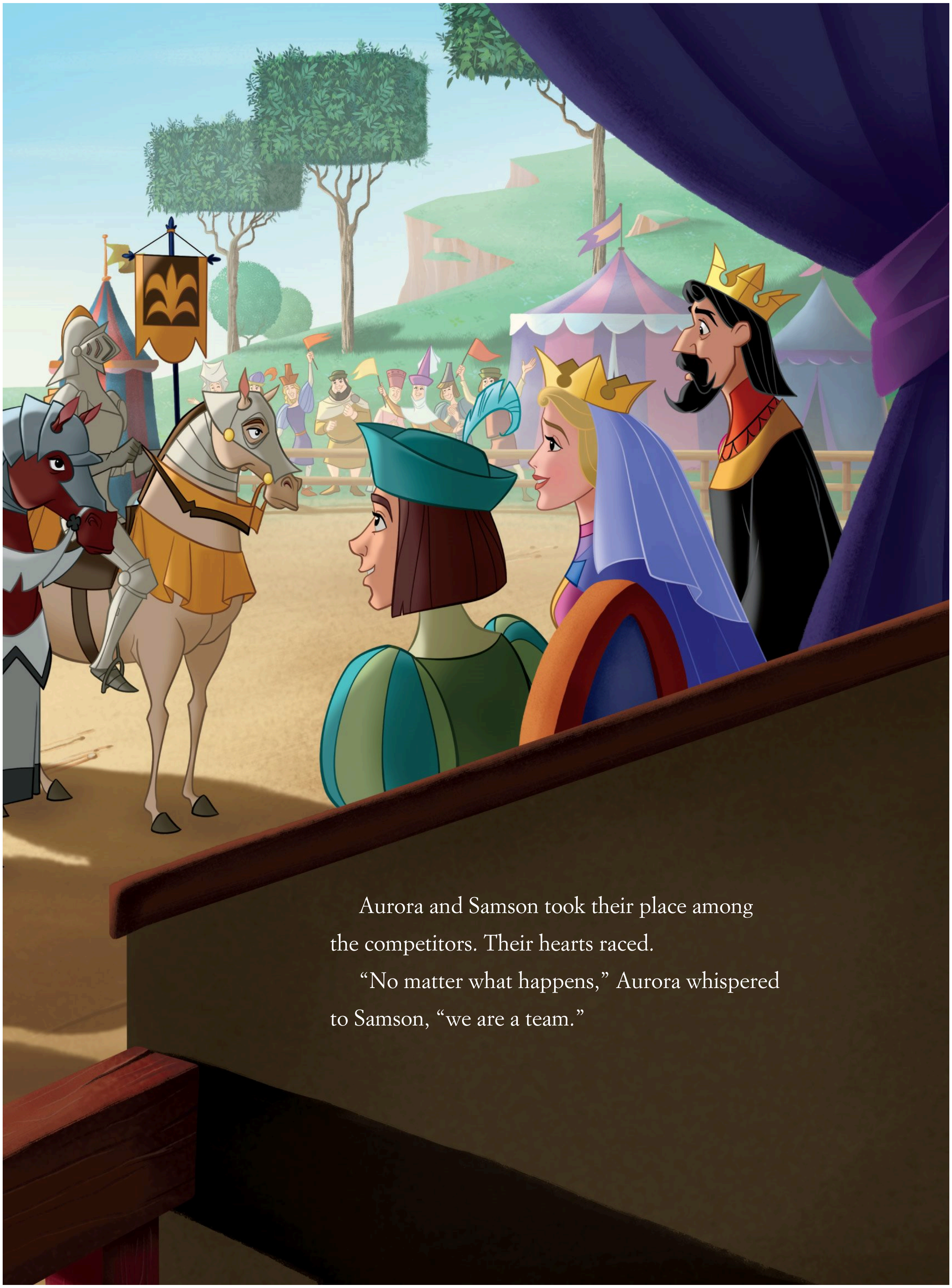
The night before the tournament, Aurora revealed her plan to her parents. “Since Prince Phillip won’t be present for the joust tomorrow, I’d like to compete in his place.”

Her father was nervous. “That seems dangerous,” he replied.

After a brief silence, her mother spoke. “You’re a new kind of princess,” she said. “It would be our honor to have you participate.”

Early the next morning, the townspeople gathered around the jousting arena.

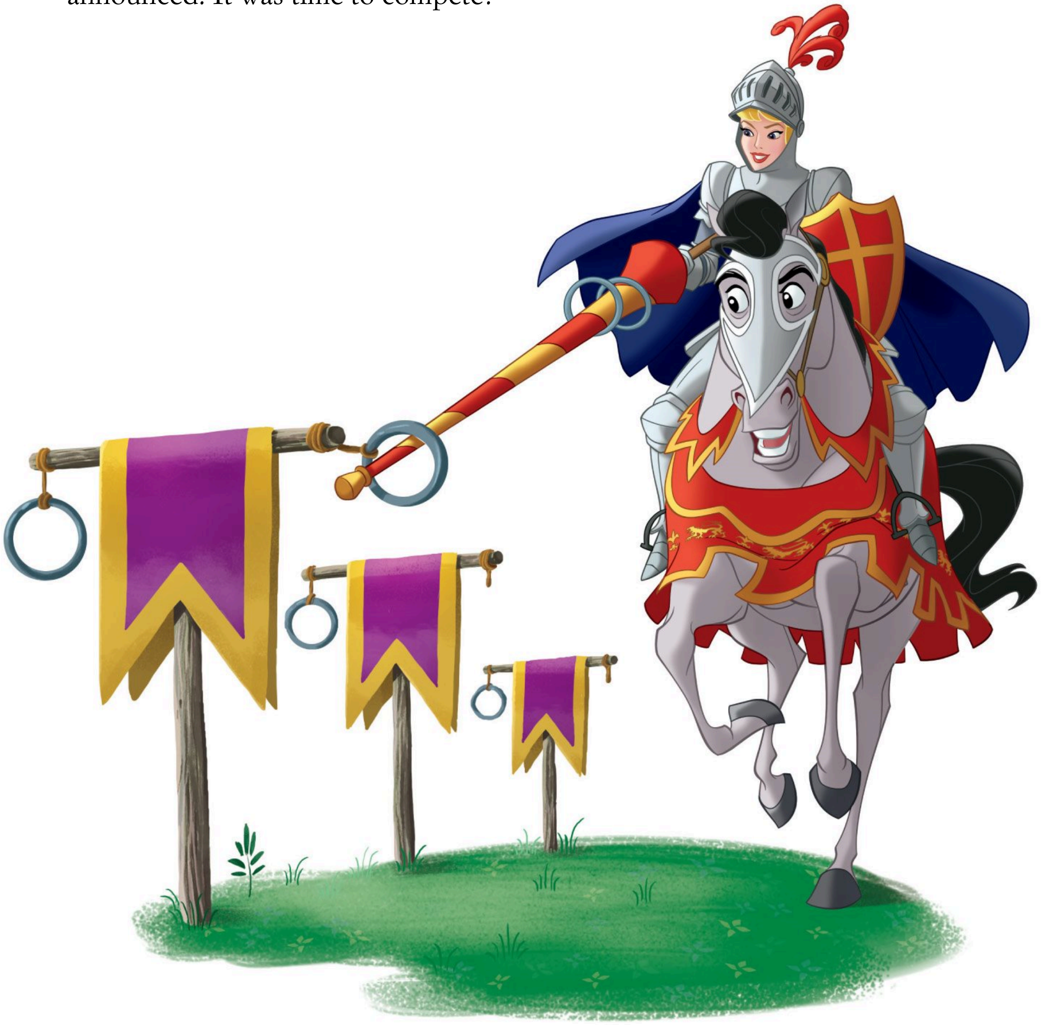




Aurora and Samson took their place among the competitors. Their hearts raced.

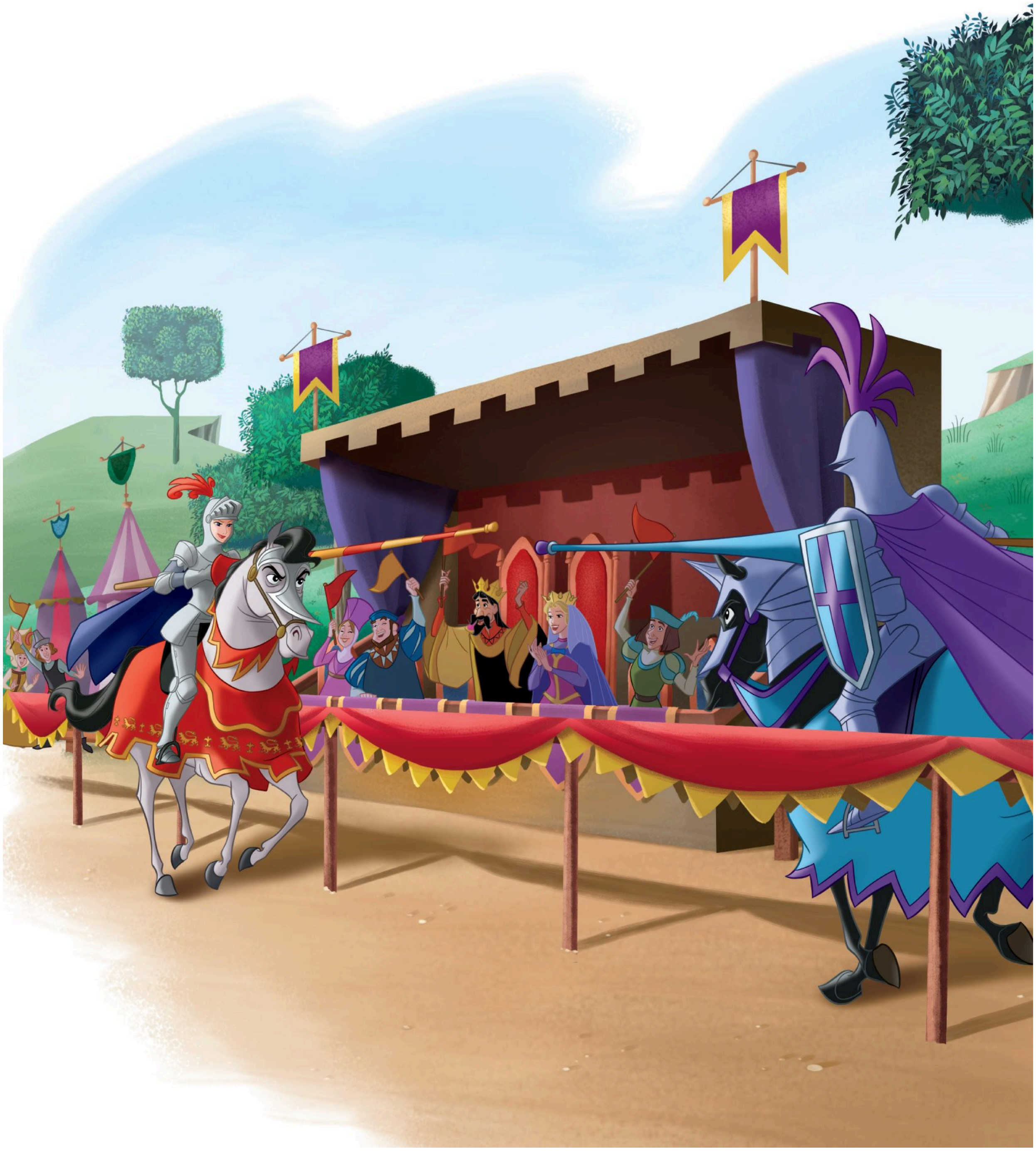
"No matter what happens," Aurora whispered to Samson, "we are a team."

All of a sudden, their names were announced. It was time to compete!

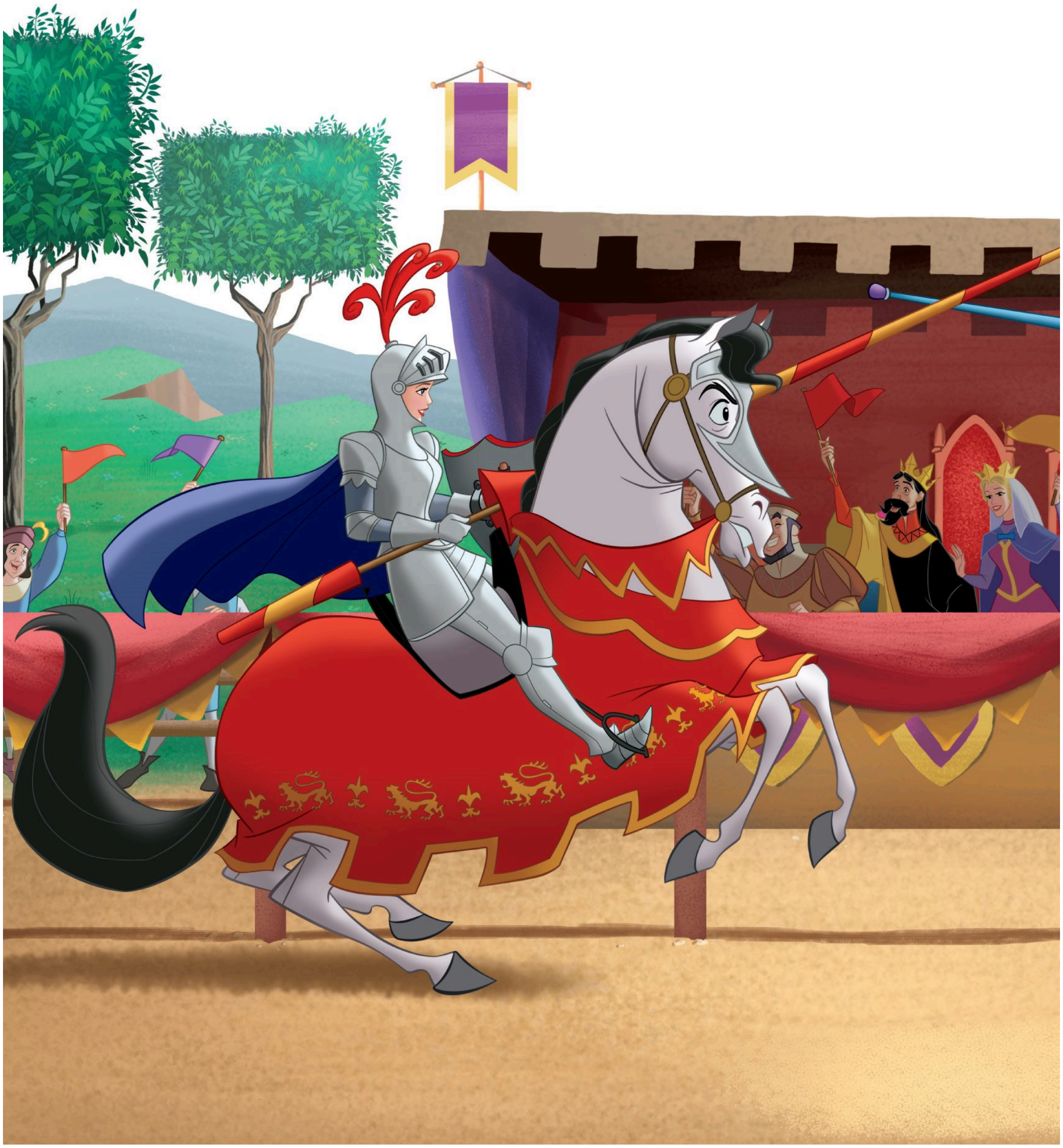


Samson took off. Aurora lifted her lance and put it through all the rings on their path!

Next Aurora and Samson charged toward their opponent—the valiant Sir Kaspar from the kingdom of Blumenfeld.

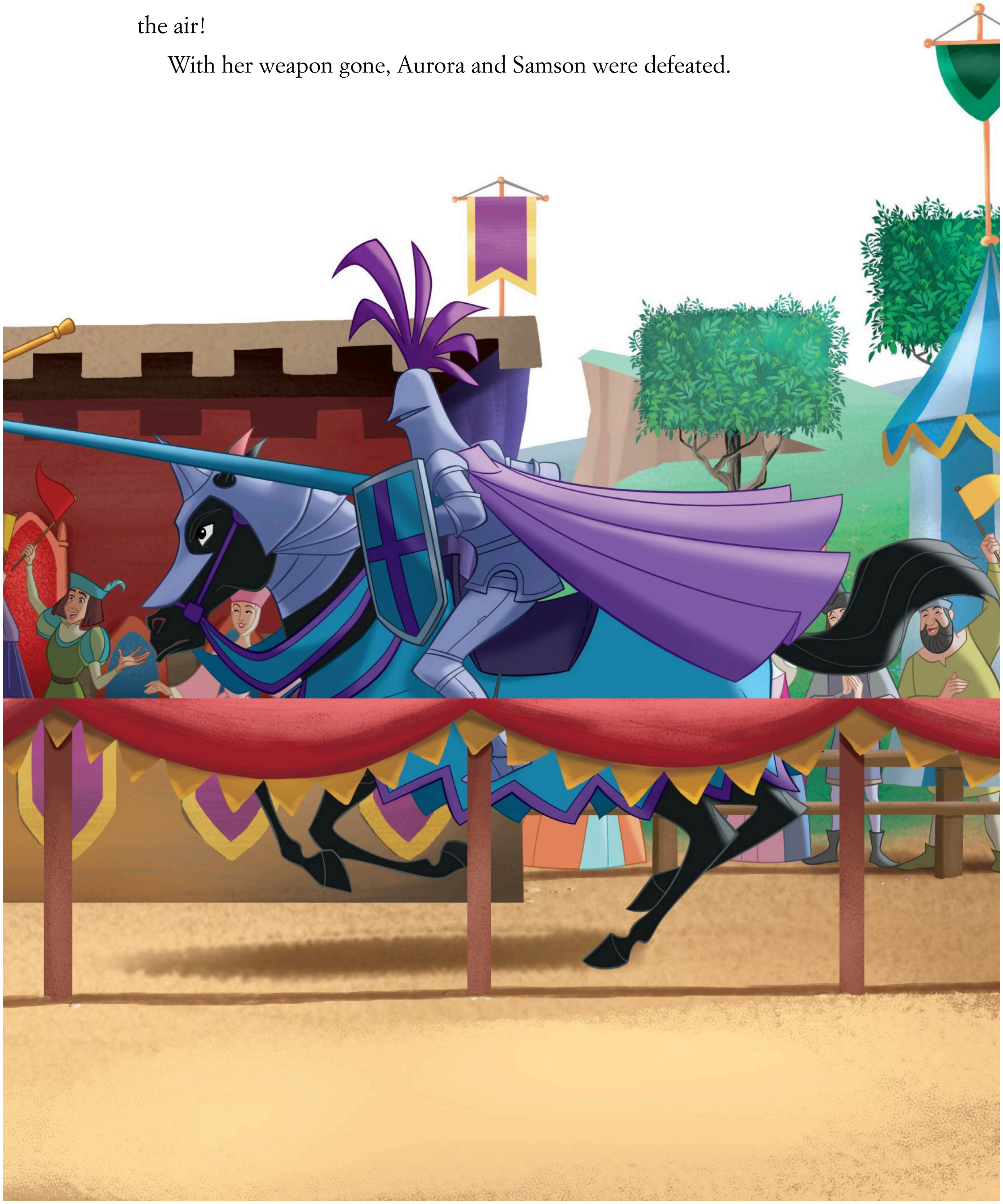


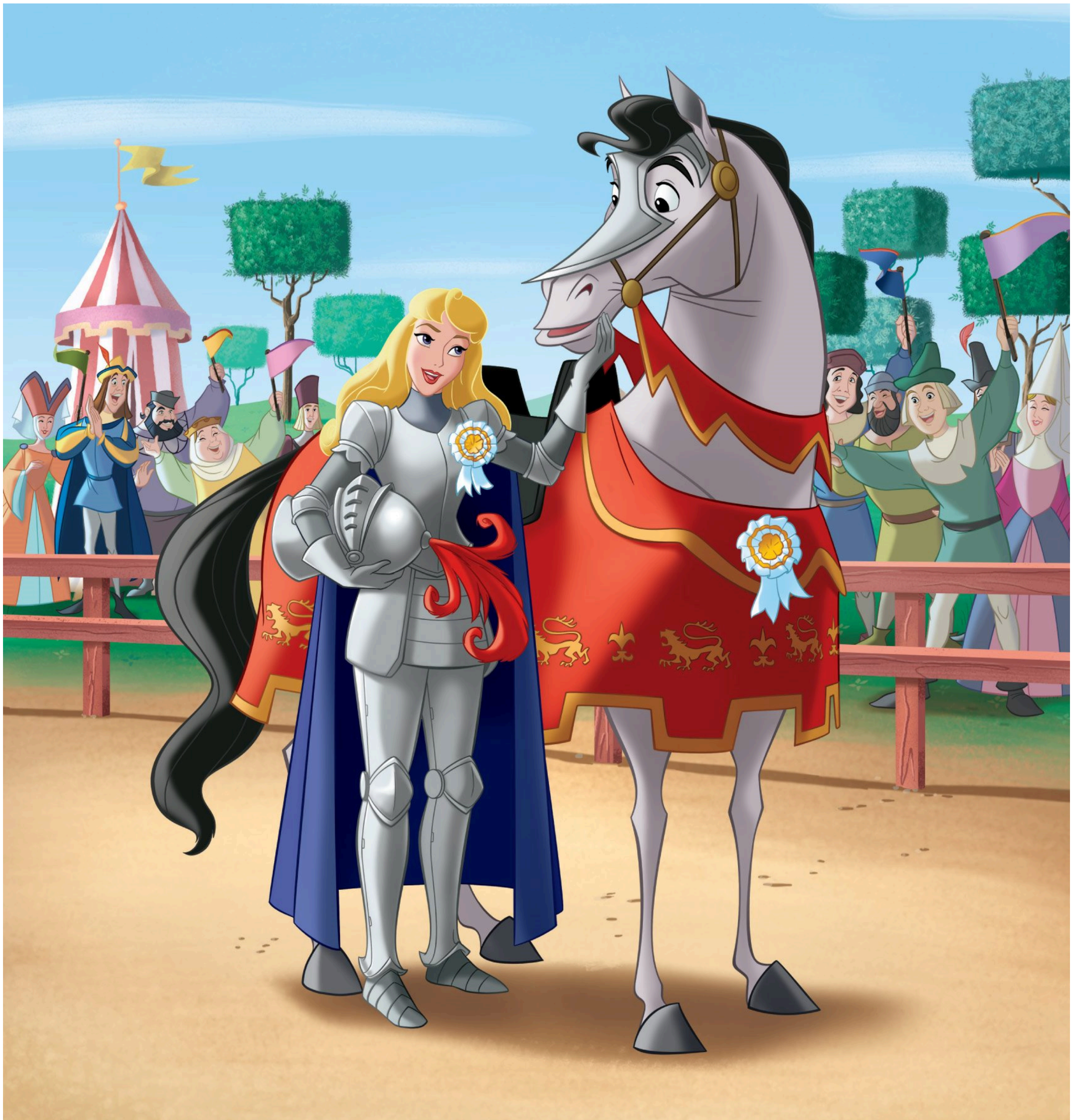
Finally, Aurora needed to disarm Sir Kaspar. With her lance sturdy in her hand, she tried her best to win this last trial. But their weapons kept getting locked. She needed to try a different tactic.



As Aurora was thinking, Sir Kaspar sent her lance flying through the air!

With her weapon gone, Aurora and Samson were defeated.





At the end of the day, the winners were announced. Aurora and Samson had finished in fourth place!

"Not bad for our first tournament," Aurora said. She and Samson made an amazing team!

Tangled

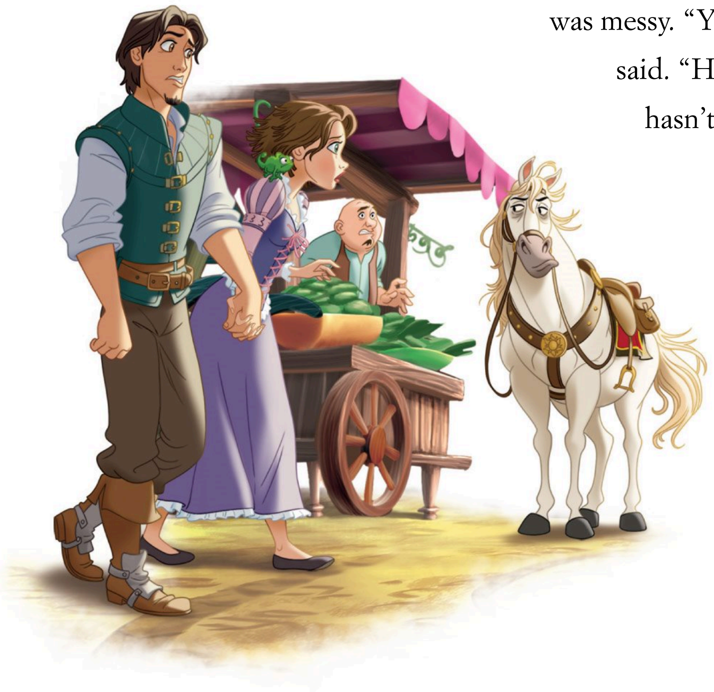
Bedtime for Max

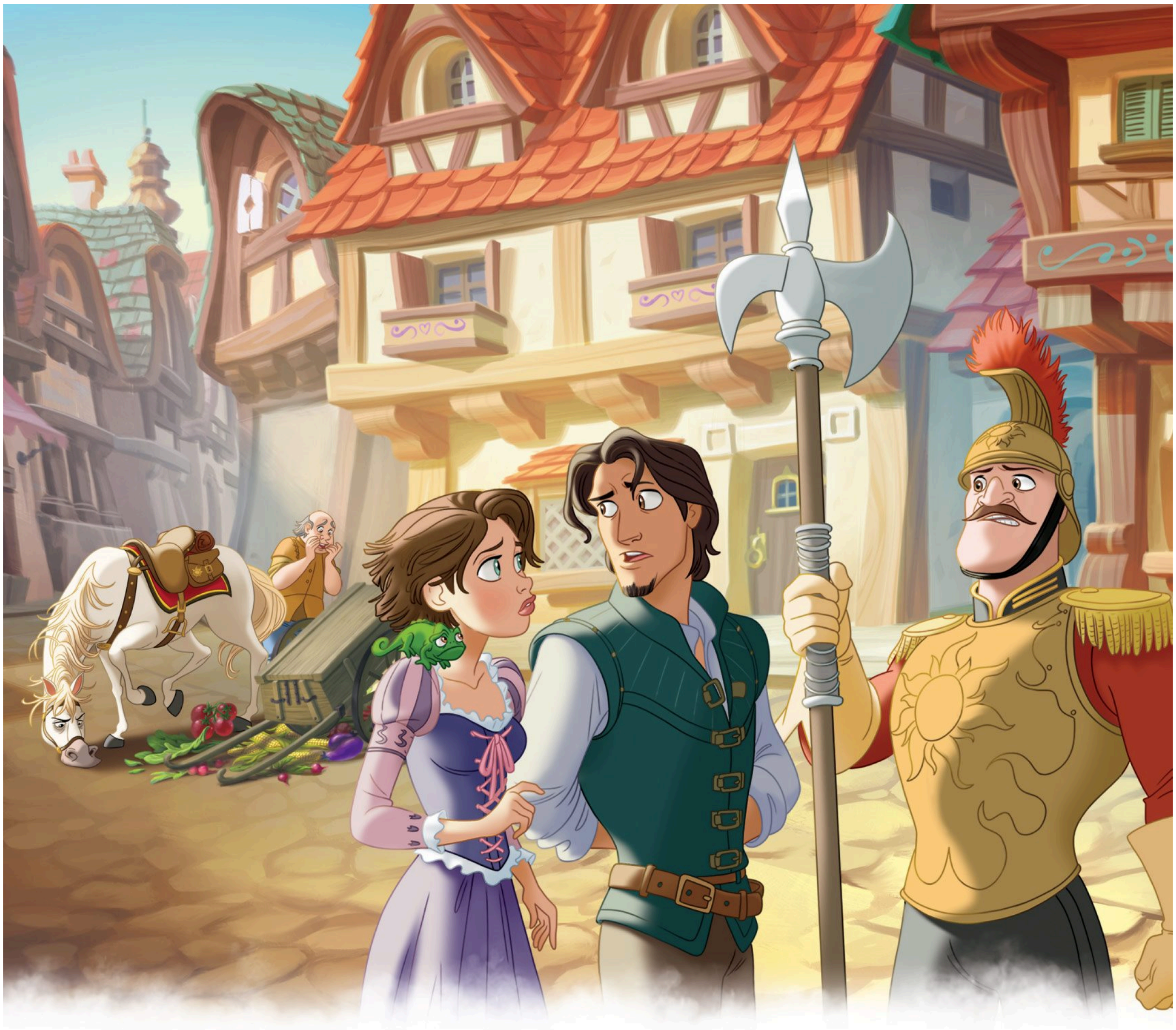
It was a beautiful morning in the kingdom. Everyone was enjoying the day—everyone, that is, except the captain of the guard, Maximus. Max was hard at work, patrolling the streets for troublemakers and evildoers.

"Is it just me, or does Max look . . . strange?" Eugene asked Rapunzel as they strolled through town.

Rapunzel studied Max. He had dark circles under his eyes, and his normally neat mane was messy. "You're right," she said. "He looks like he hasn't slept in weeks!"

Eugene and Rapunzel found Max's second-in-command and asked him what was wrong with their friend.



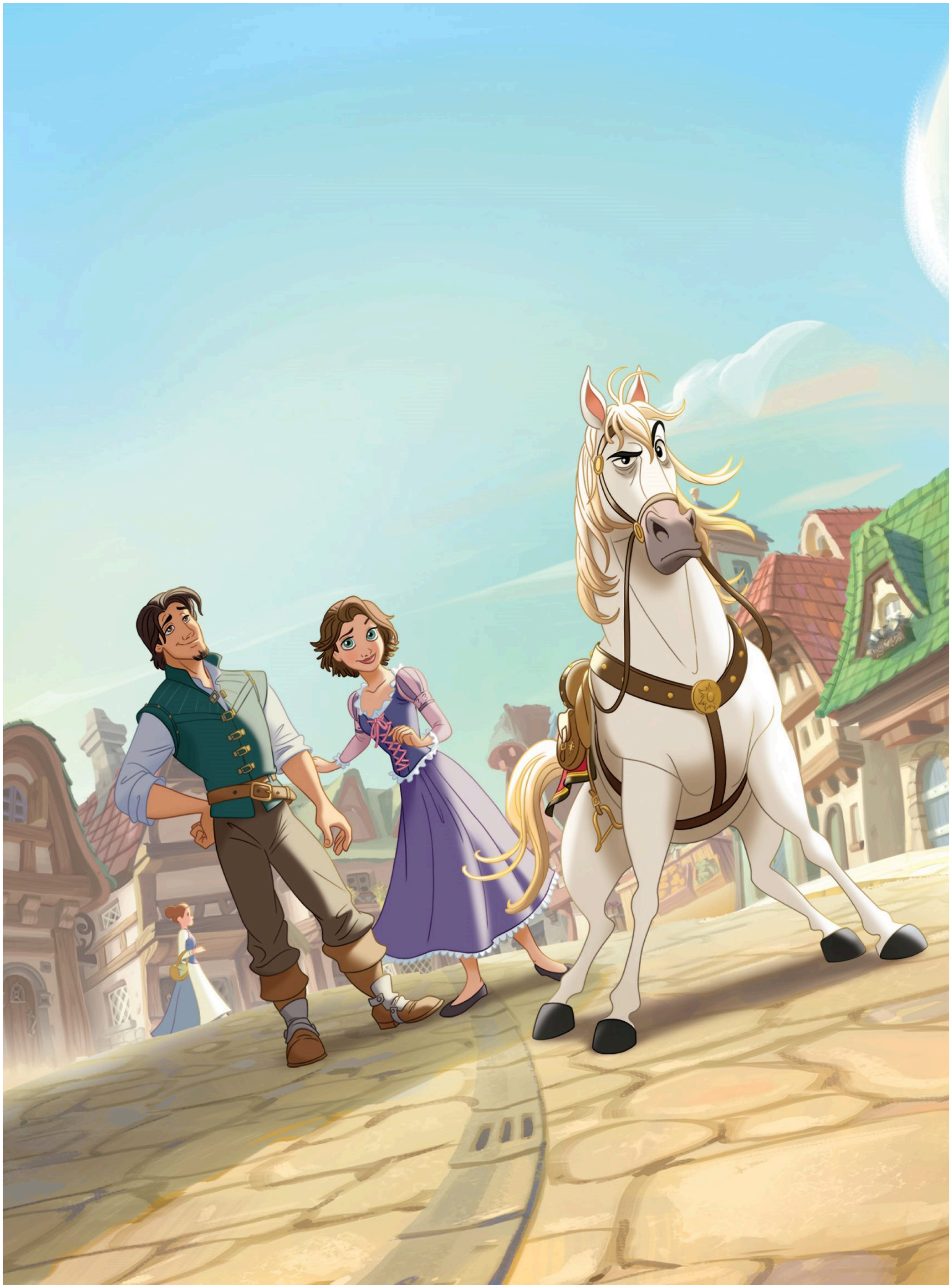


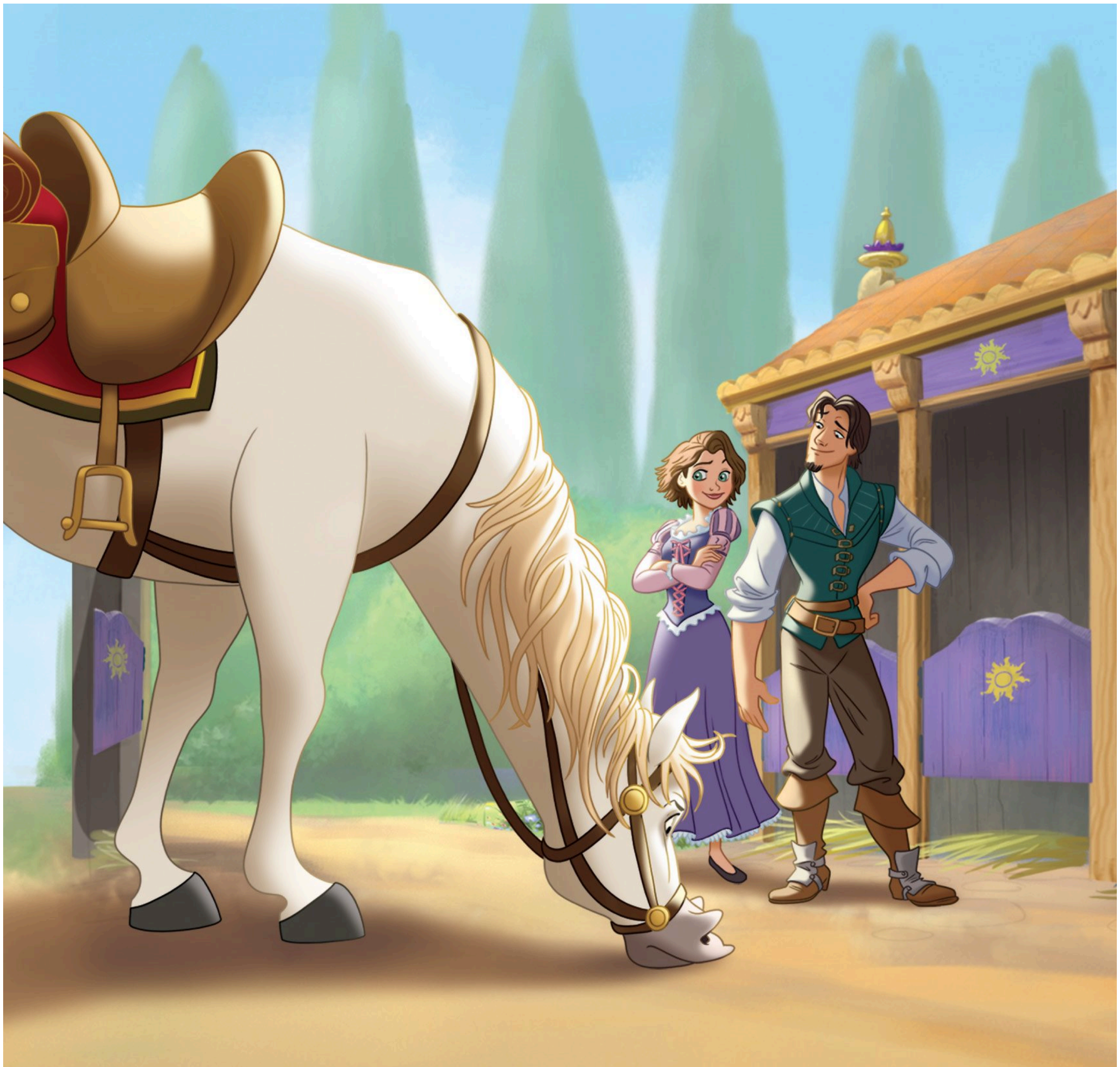
“The captain has been so worried about doing a good job,” the guard said, “that he hasn’t been sleeping. No matter how many guards we put on duty, he insists that *he* needs to stay on patrol!”

Rapunzel was worried. Refusing to sleep couldn’t be good for Max. “You know what this means,” she told Eugene with a knowing look.

“Plan time?” Eugene asked.

“Plan time,” Rapunzel agreed.





The two went off to figure out their plan. When they returned, they found Max running drills with his guards.

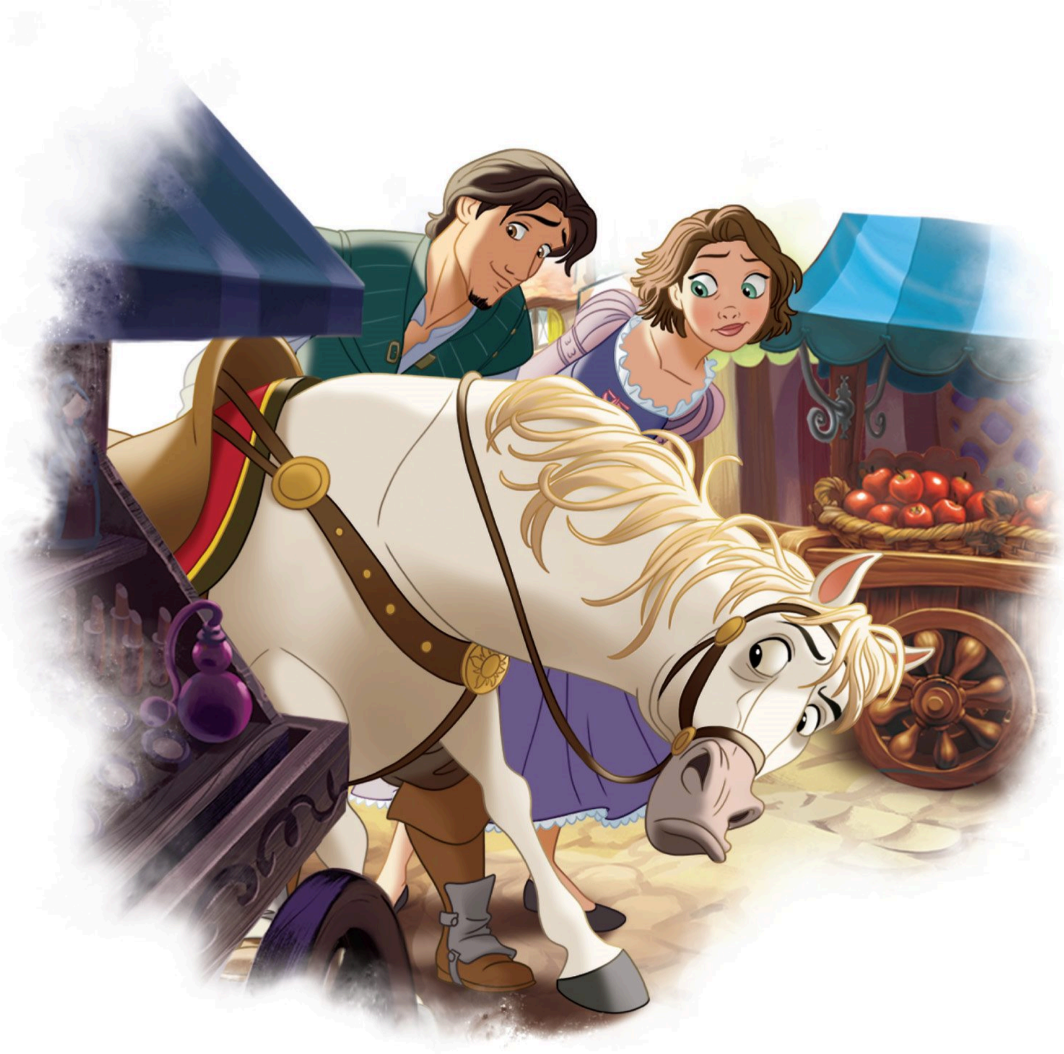
"Max!" Rapunzel cried. "I can't find Pascal anywhere! Can you help me find him? I'm afraid something might have happened!"

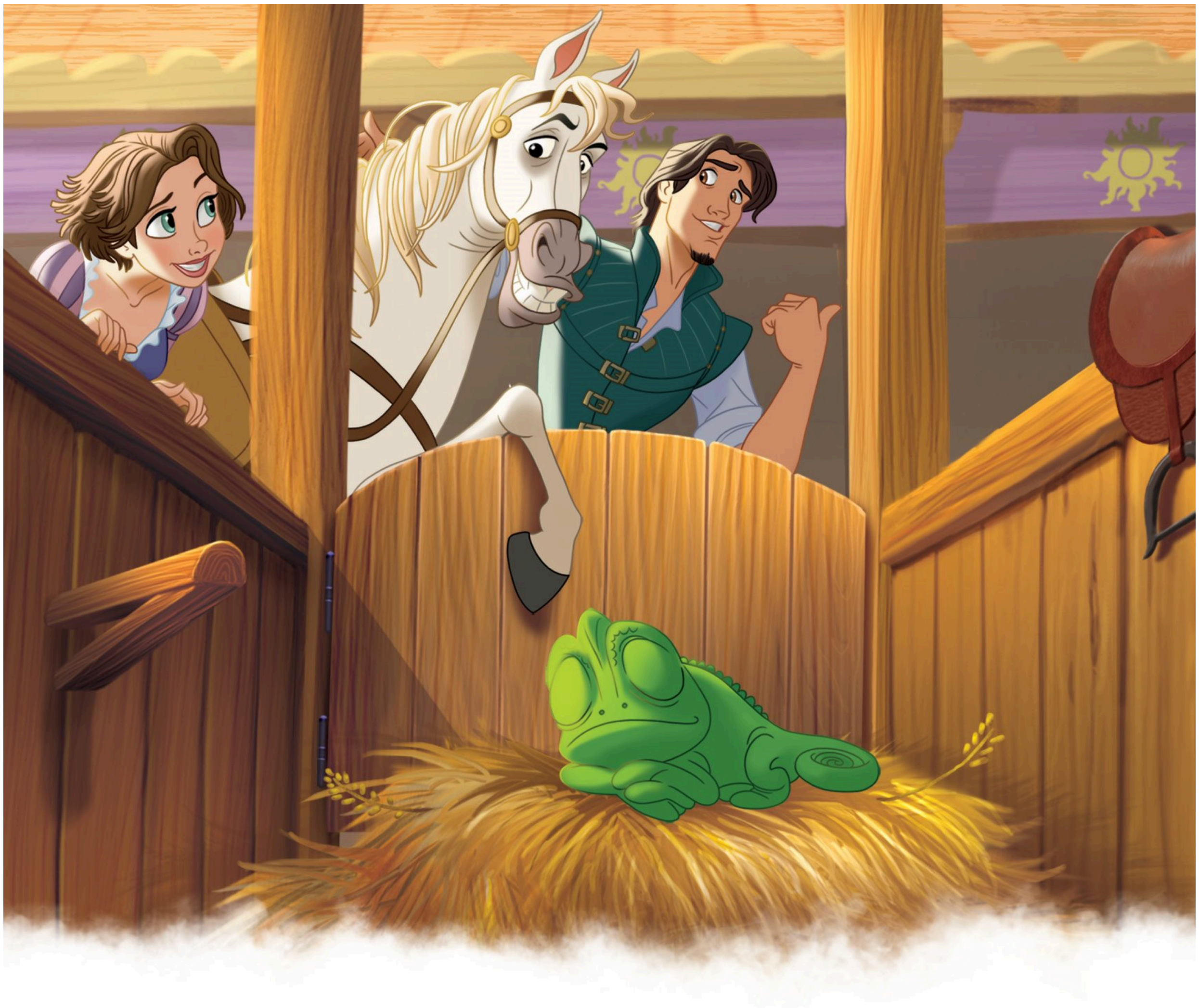
Max puffed out his chest. He was on the case! He started to sniff the ground, searching for the chameleon's scent.

Eugene and Rapunzel followed Max all around town.

"Can you smell him?" Rapunzel asked.

Max sniffed around all the carts, leading Rapunzel and Eugene this way and that. They checked all Pascal's usual hiding places. But he was nowhere to be found.





Finally, as they turned toward the stables, Max caught the chameleon's scent.

The friends burst through the stable doors, eager to rescue Pascal. But he was fast asleep on a pile of hay!

"You found him! Great job, Max!" Rapunzel said.

"Say, Max, ol' buddy," Eugene said, "since we're here, in the stables, with this nice pile of hay, what do you say to a nap?"

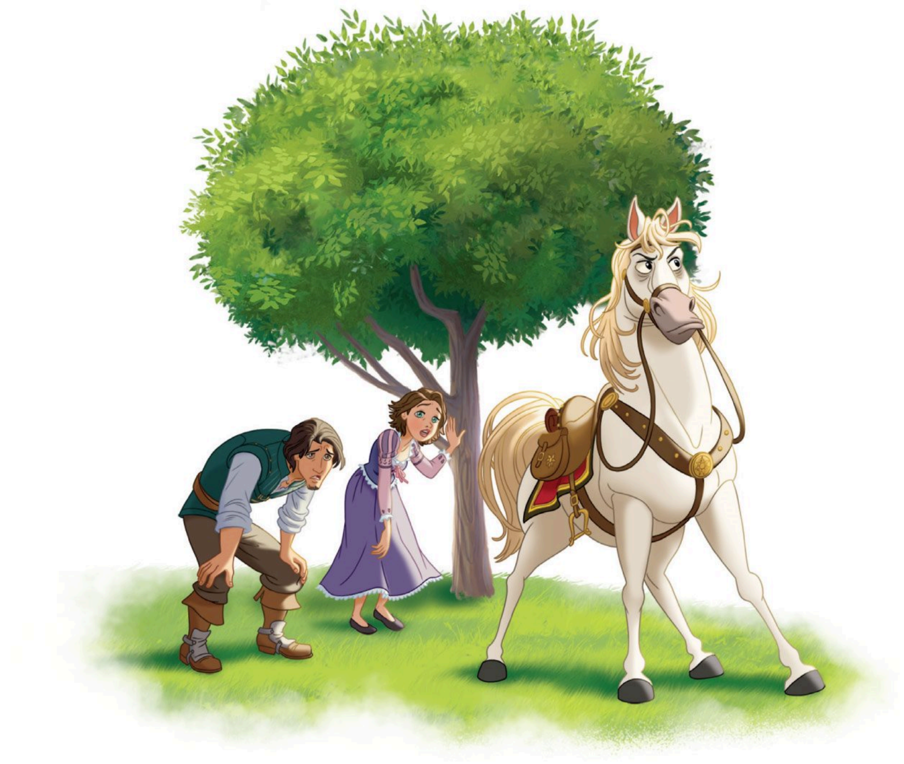
But Max just shook his head. He was too busy to take a break!

Rapunzel and Eugene looked at each other, disappointed. They had hoped that by tricking Max into following them to the stables, they could convince him to rest. But it looked like they were going to need another plan. Luckily, Eugene was on the case!

A little while later, Eugene and Rapunzel found Max inspecting ships that had just arrived at the harbor.

"Max! All the apples have been stolen from the orchard!" Eugene shouted.

Max knew he had to do something. He couldn't let a thief get away on his watch! He raced toward the apple orchard with his friends close behind.

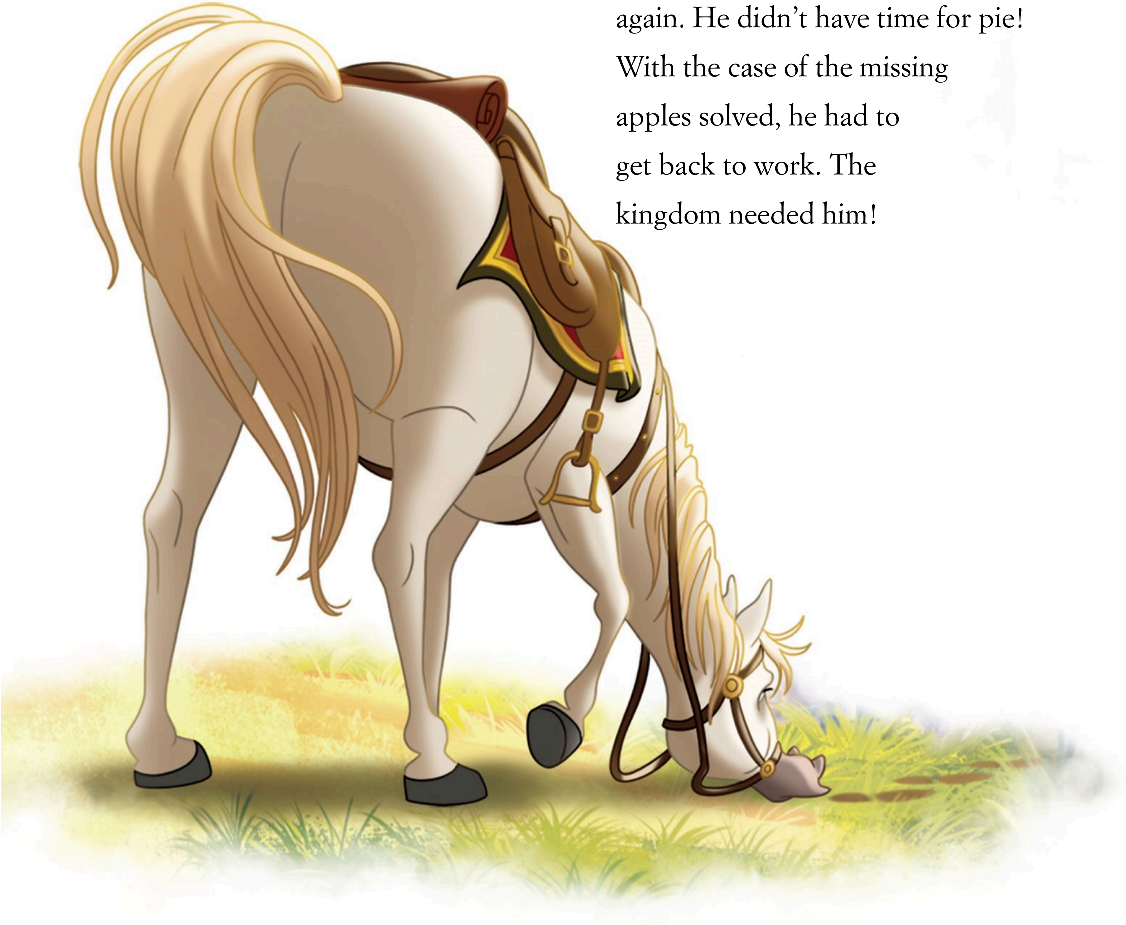


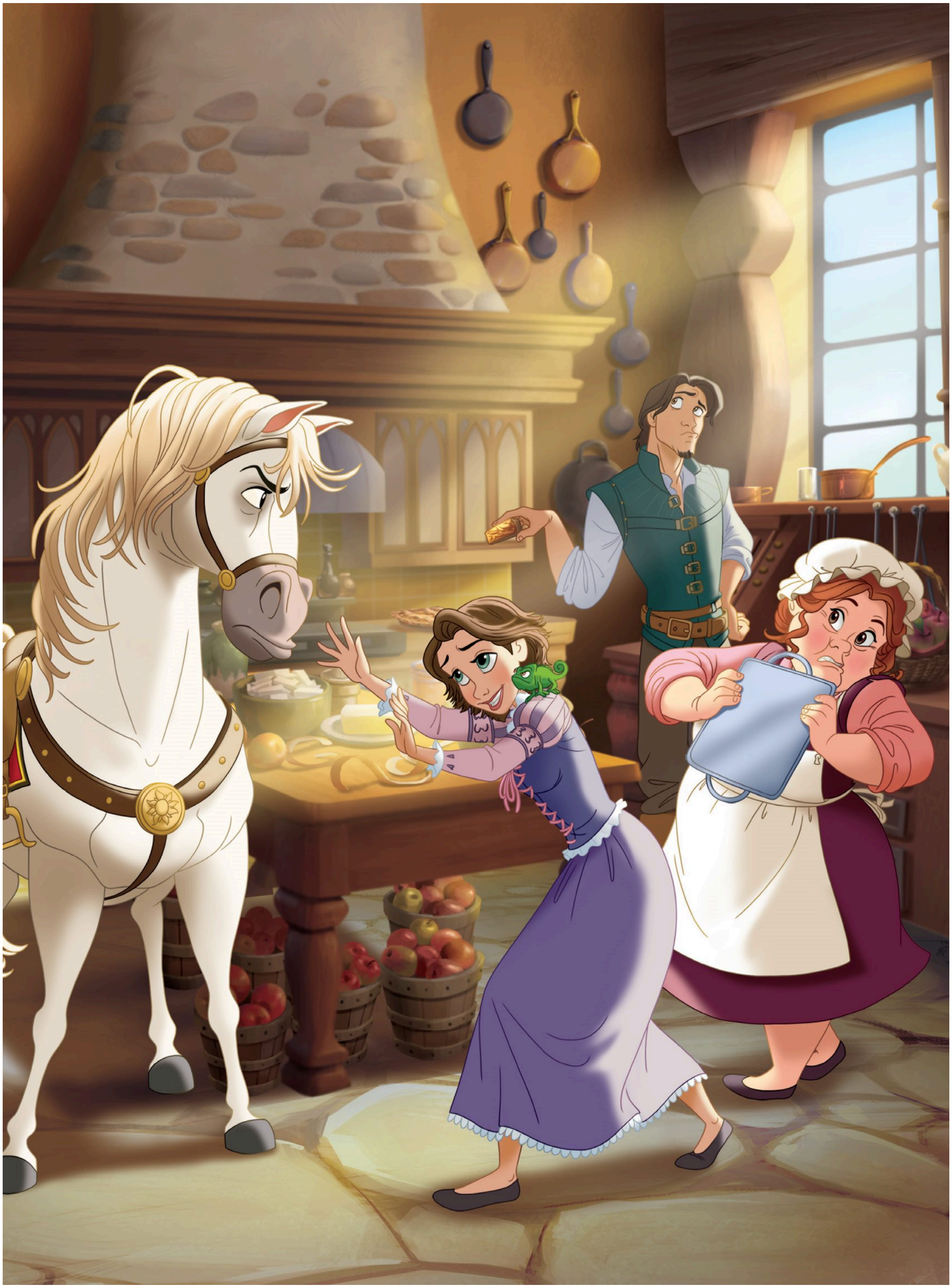
Together, the team searched the orchard for clues about the missing apples. Soon Max spotted some footprints. He and his friends followed them back to the palace and into the kitchen . . . where they found a piping hot apple pie!

The apples hadn't been stolen after all. The chef had used them to make a special treat for the royal family's dinner.

"Apple pie! I love apple pie!" Eugene exclaimed. "But it always makes me sleepy. Do you want a bite, Max?"

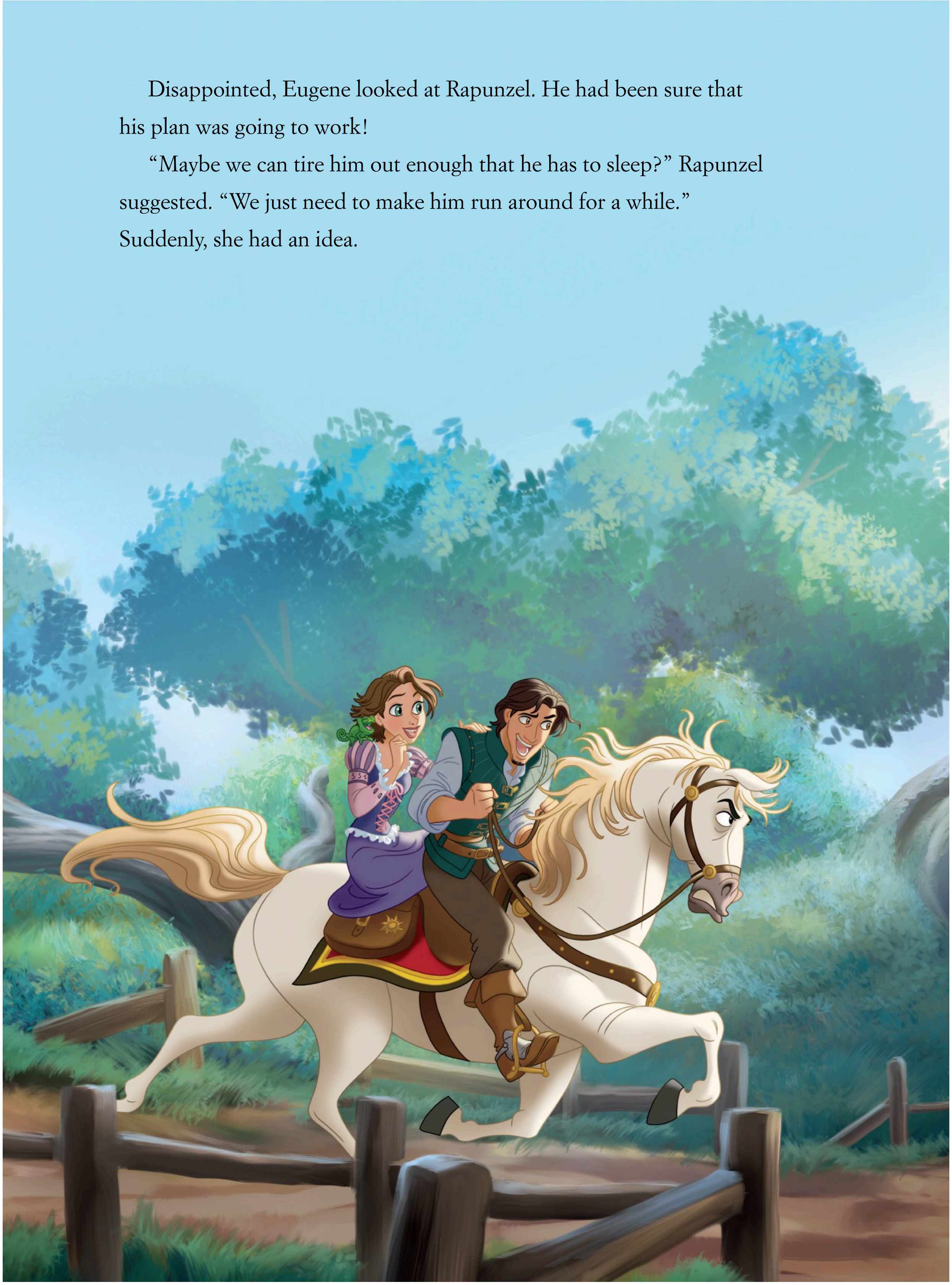
But Max just shook his head again. He didn't have time for pie! With the case of the missing apples solved, he had to get back to work. The kingdom needed him!





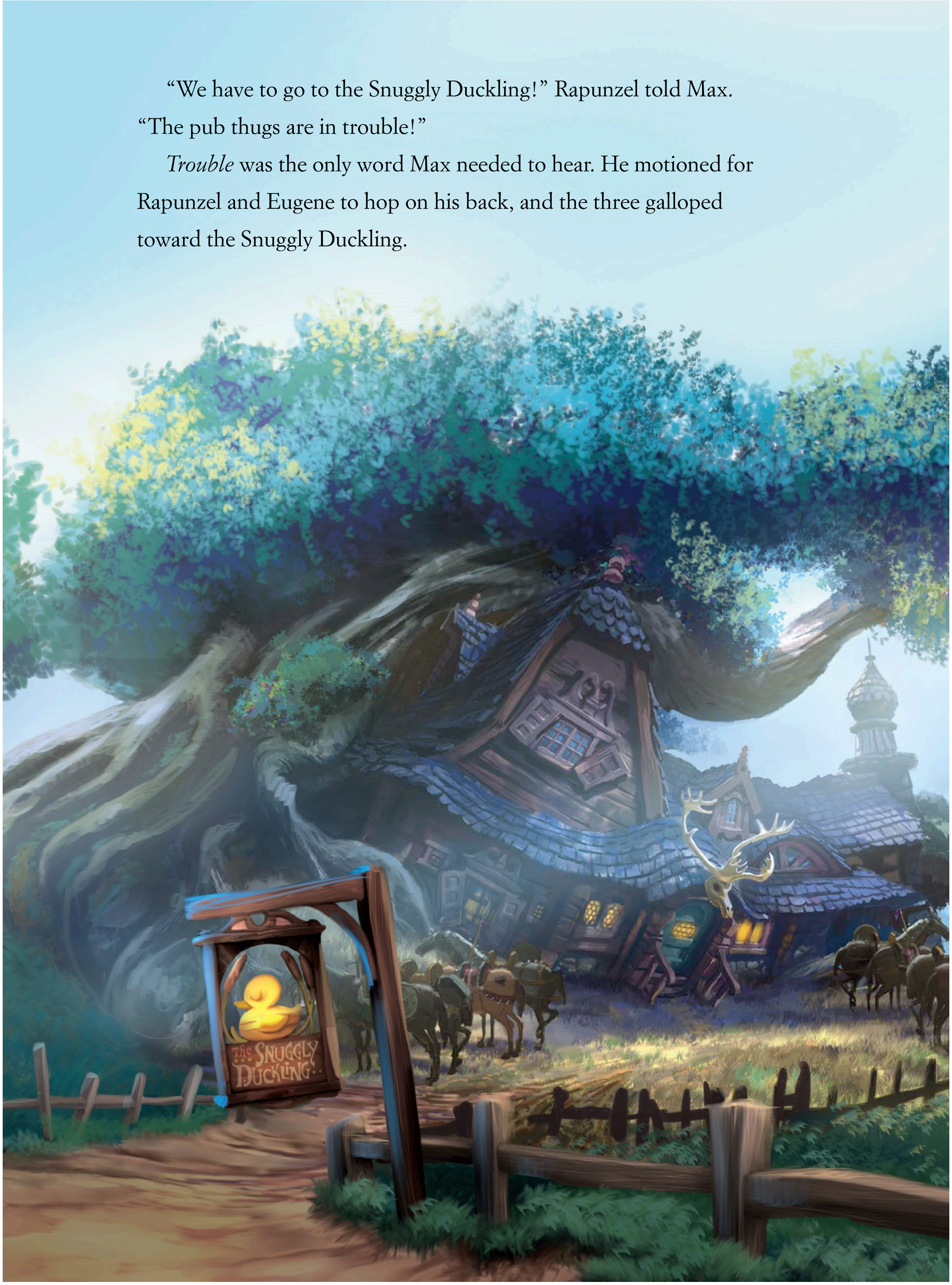
Disappointed, Eugene looked at Rapunzel. He had been sure that his plan was going to work!

"Maybe we can tire him out enough that he has to sleep?" Rapunzel suggested. "We just need to make him run around for a while." Suddenly, she had an idea.



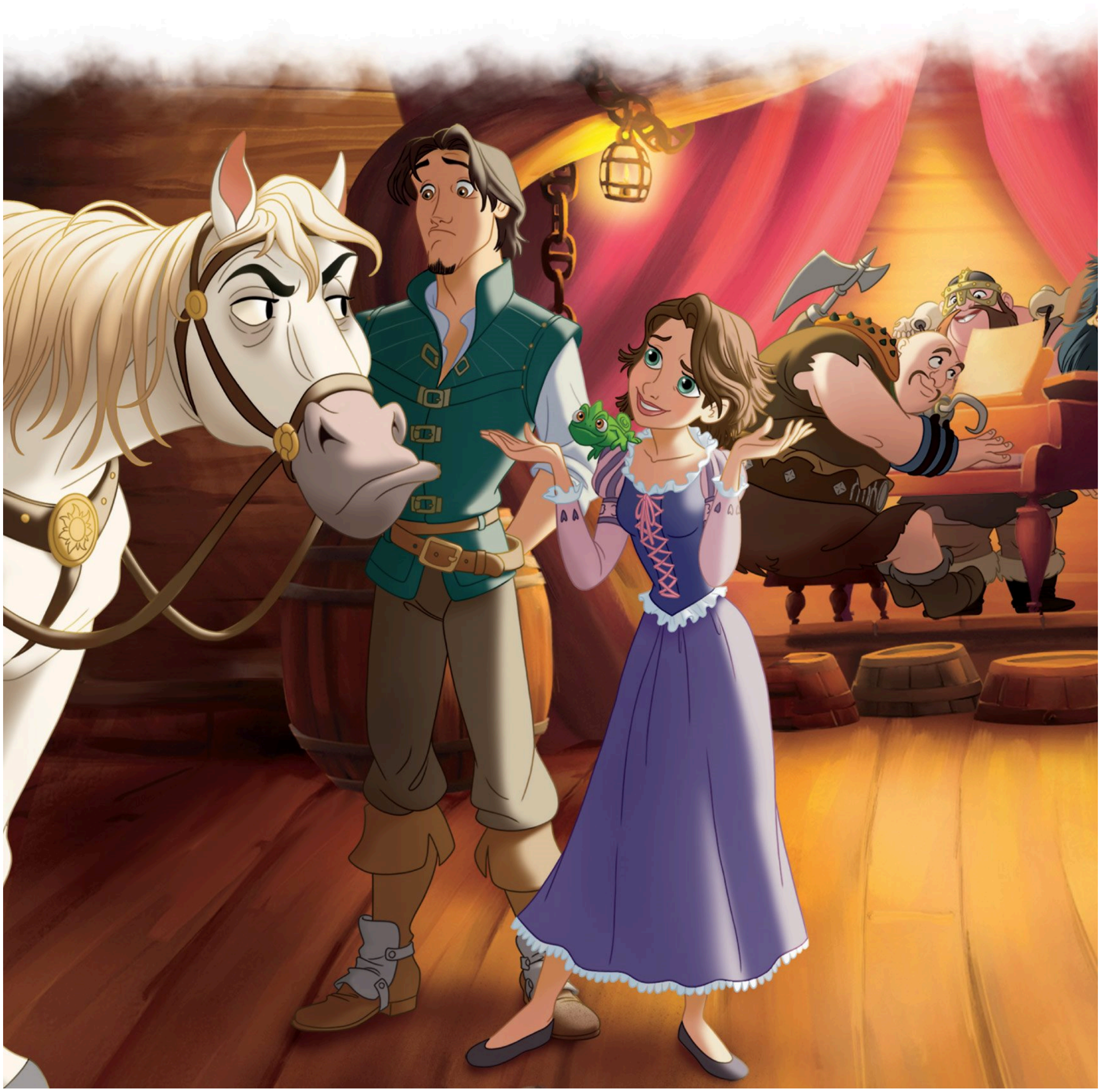
“We have to go to the Snuggly Duckling!” Rapunzel told Max. “The pub thugs are in trouble!”

Trouble was the only word Max needed to hear. He motioned for Rapunzel and Eugene to hop on his back, and the three galloped toward the Snuggly Duckling.



Max burst into the Snuggly Duckling. He scanned the tavern, looking for the troublemakers. But everyone was gathered around the piano, singing and laughing.

Max looked suspiciously at Rapunzel and Eugene. No one was in trouble! With a sigh, he turned to leave.



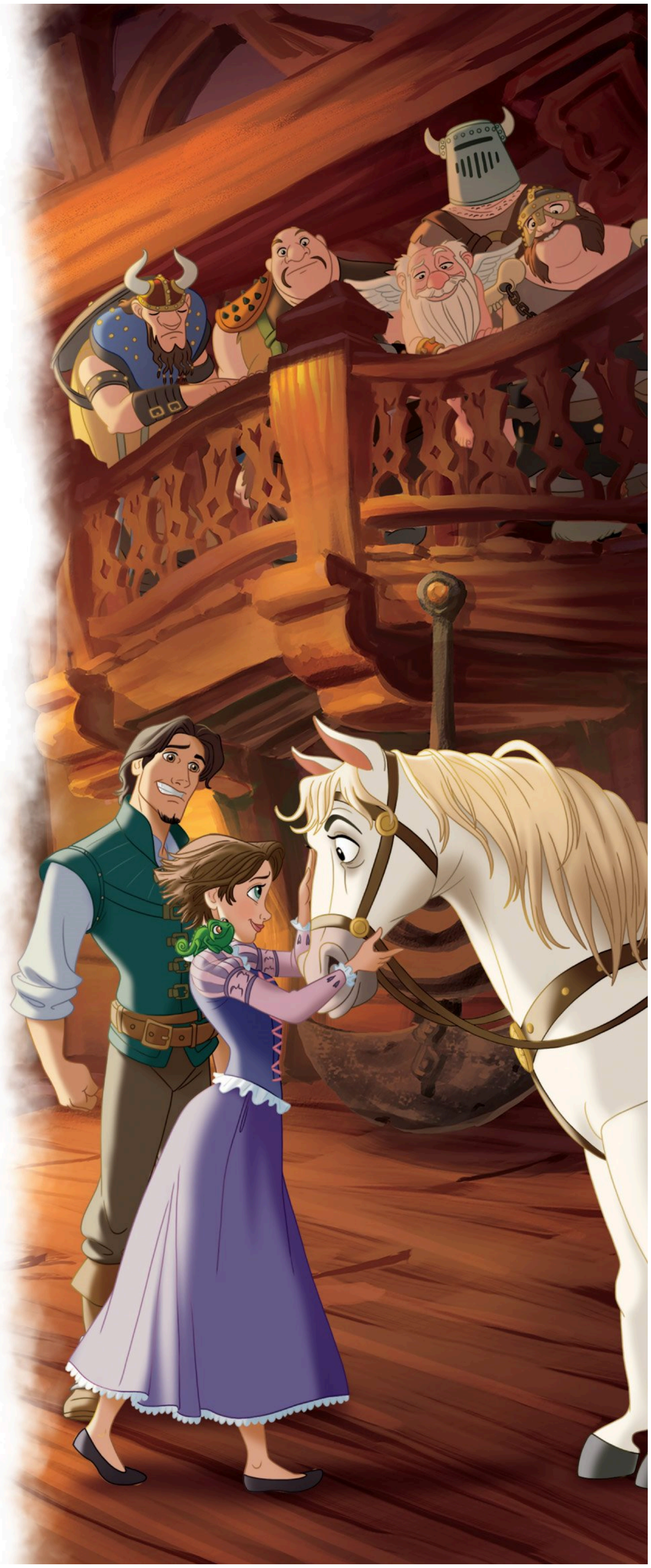
"Wait, Max," Rapunzel said. "We're sorry we lied to you. We were just worried. The truth is we've been trying all day to make you rest."

"We were just trying to help," Eugene added.

"You *do* need a break, Max," Rapunzel said. "Can't you just stay for one song?"

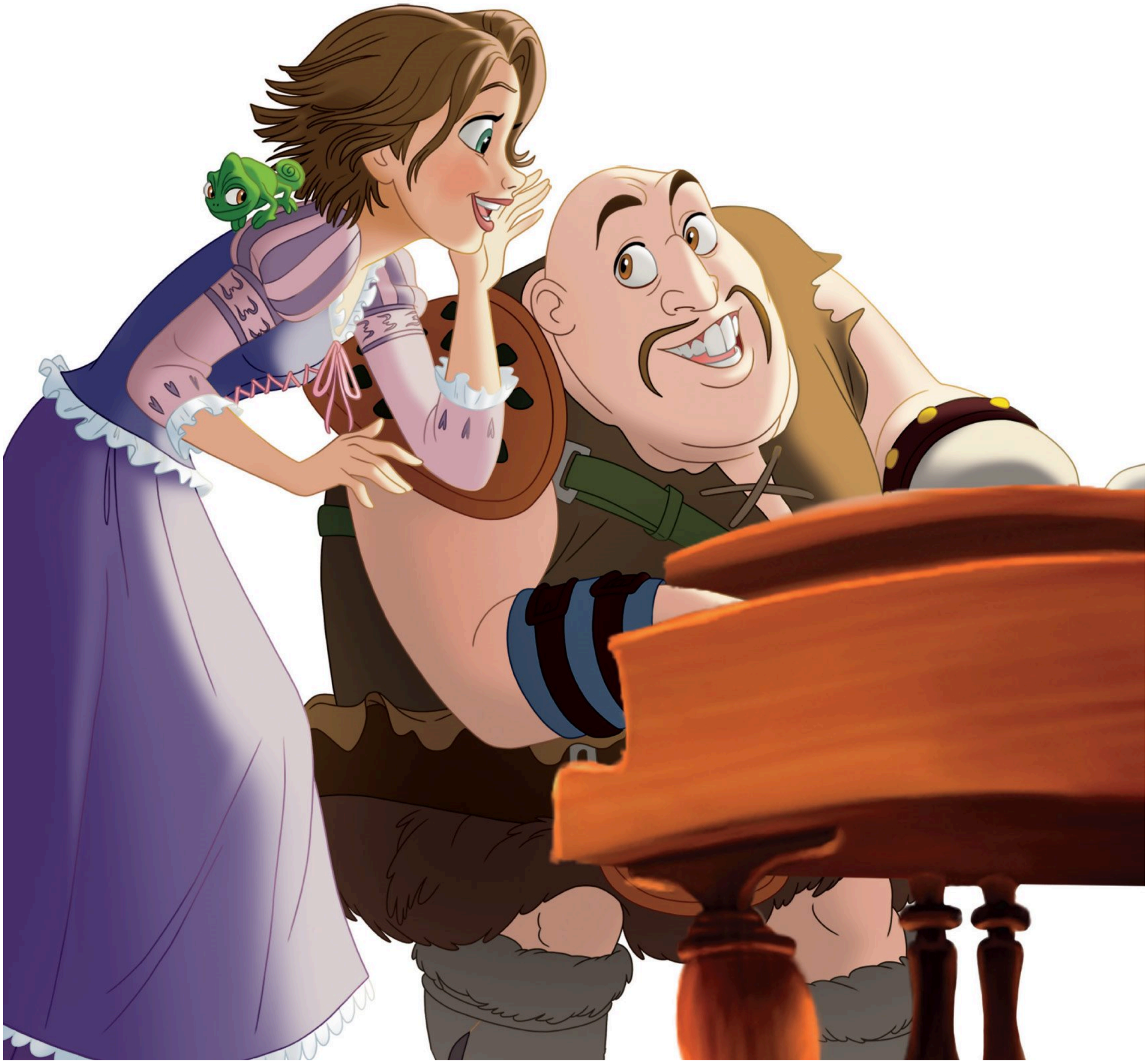
Max was touched that his friends cared enough to spend the day trying to help him. With a whinny, he agreed. One song couldn't hurt.

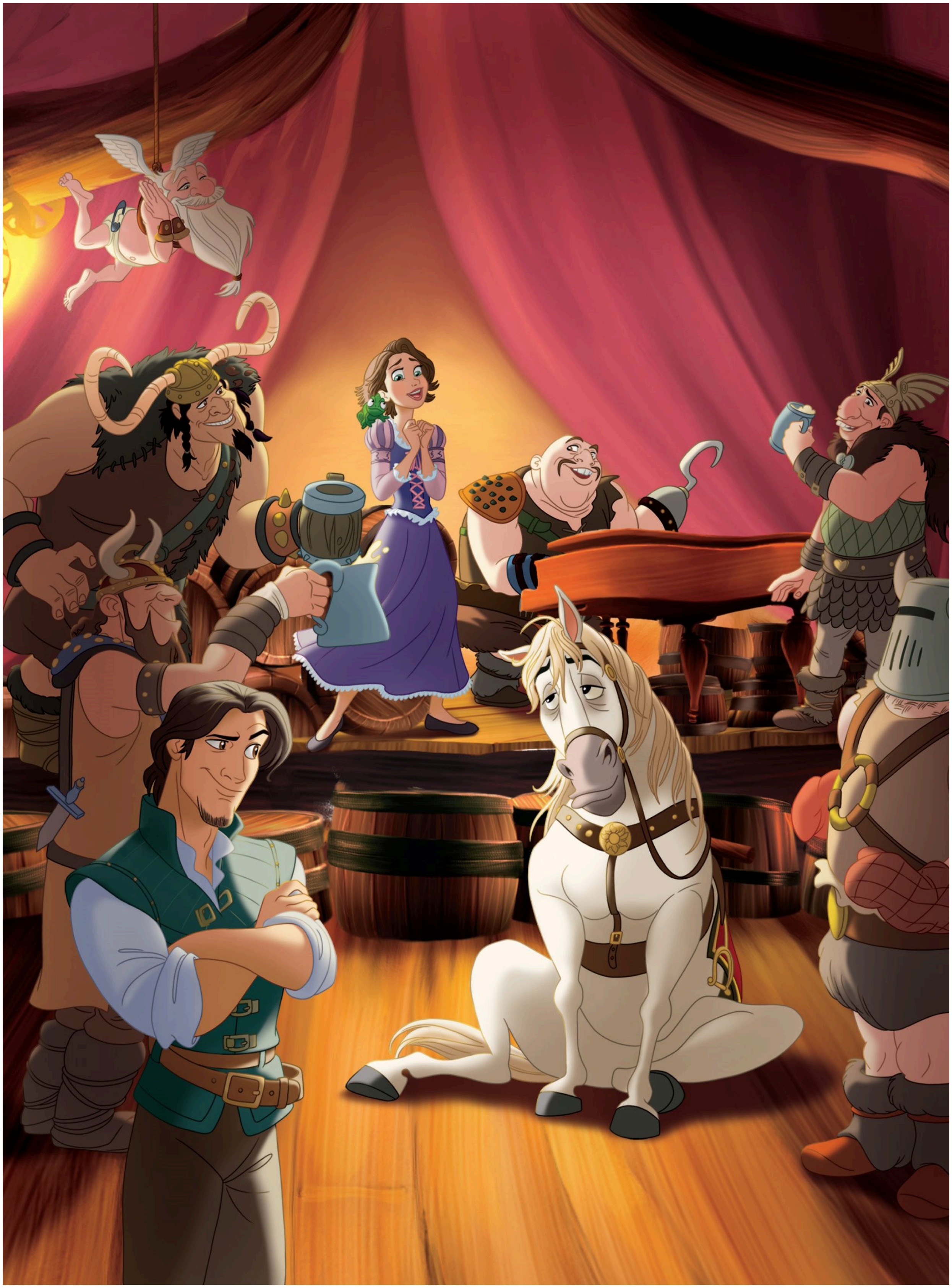
The three friends got ready to listen to the music. Rapunzel hopped away to the piano. Max looked around one last time to make sure that no one was really in trouble.

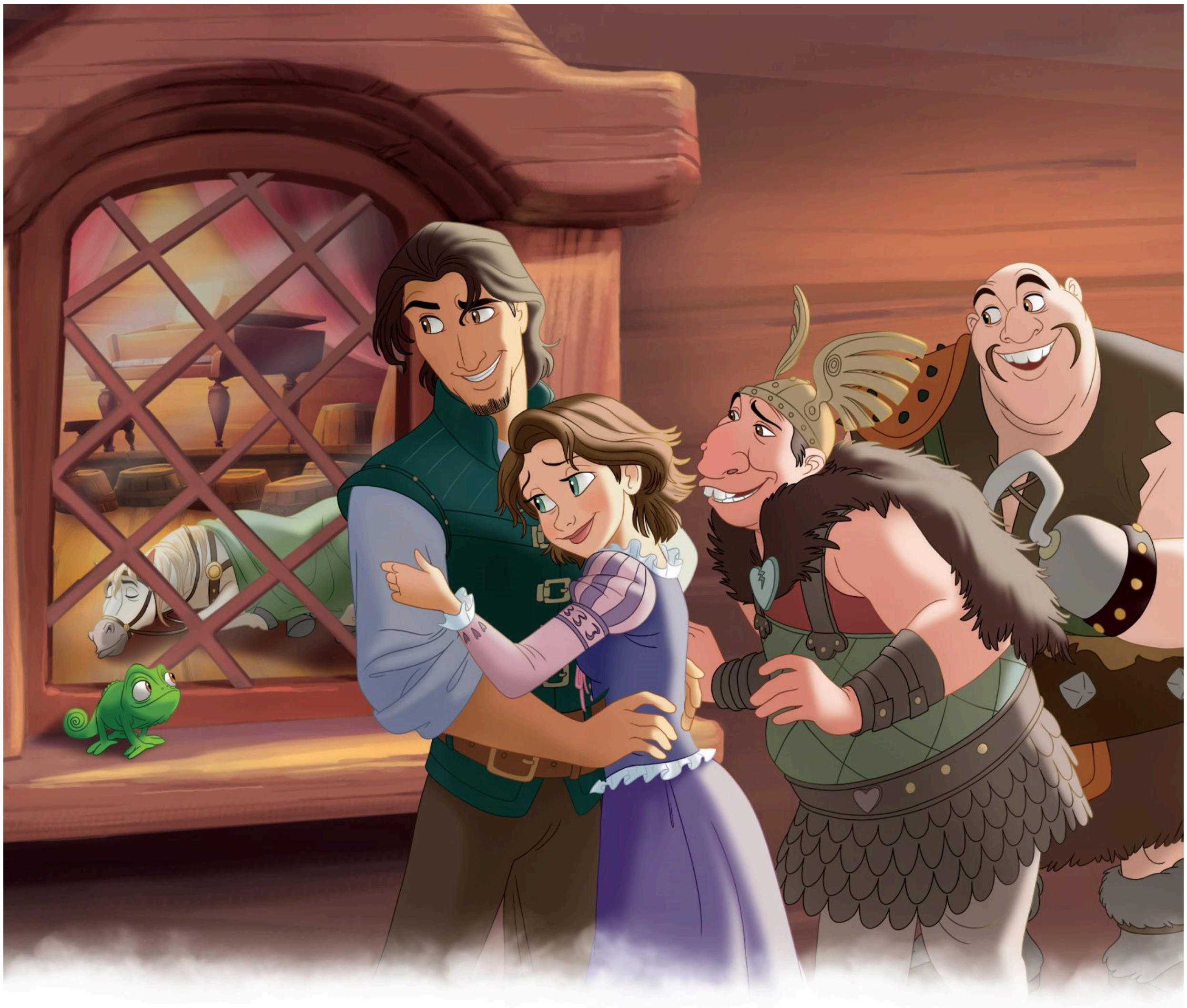


Rapunzel grinned and whispered something in Hook Hand's ear. He nodded and then began to play a quiet, peaceful lullaby on the piano.

As Rapunzel sang along, she noticed Max swaying to the music. Slowly, his eyes began to close. Soon Max was fast asleep.







Eugene put a blanket over Max, and Rapunzel motioned for everyone to quickly leave the Snuggly Duckling. As the thugs quietly closed the door behind them, Rapunzel gave Eugene a hug. They all watched as Max snoozed away. He looked so peaceful. The thugs gave a soft *aww*. It had taken them all day, but they had finally gotten Max to take a well-deserved break!

Disney Aladdin

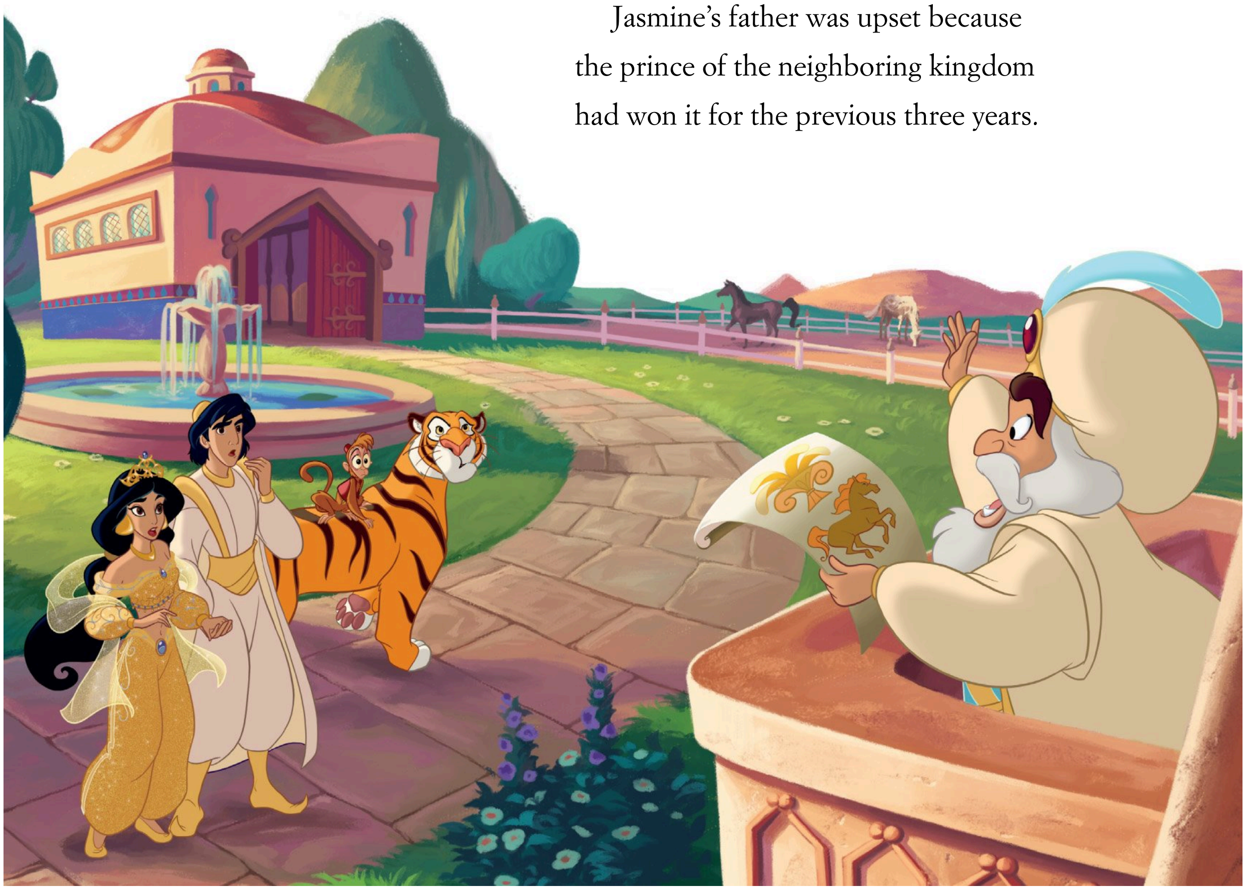
Against All Odds

Princess Jasmine and Aladdin were strolling across the palace grounds one evening when the Sultan ran out onto the balcony.

"Drat!" the Sultan cried. "That dratted Desert Race!"

Every year, the best riders from Agrabah competed against the riders from a neighboring kingdom. The fastest horse and rider were awarded a giant golden trophy.

Jasmine's father was upset because the prince of the neighboring kingdom had won it for the previous three years.

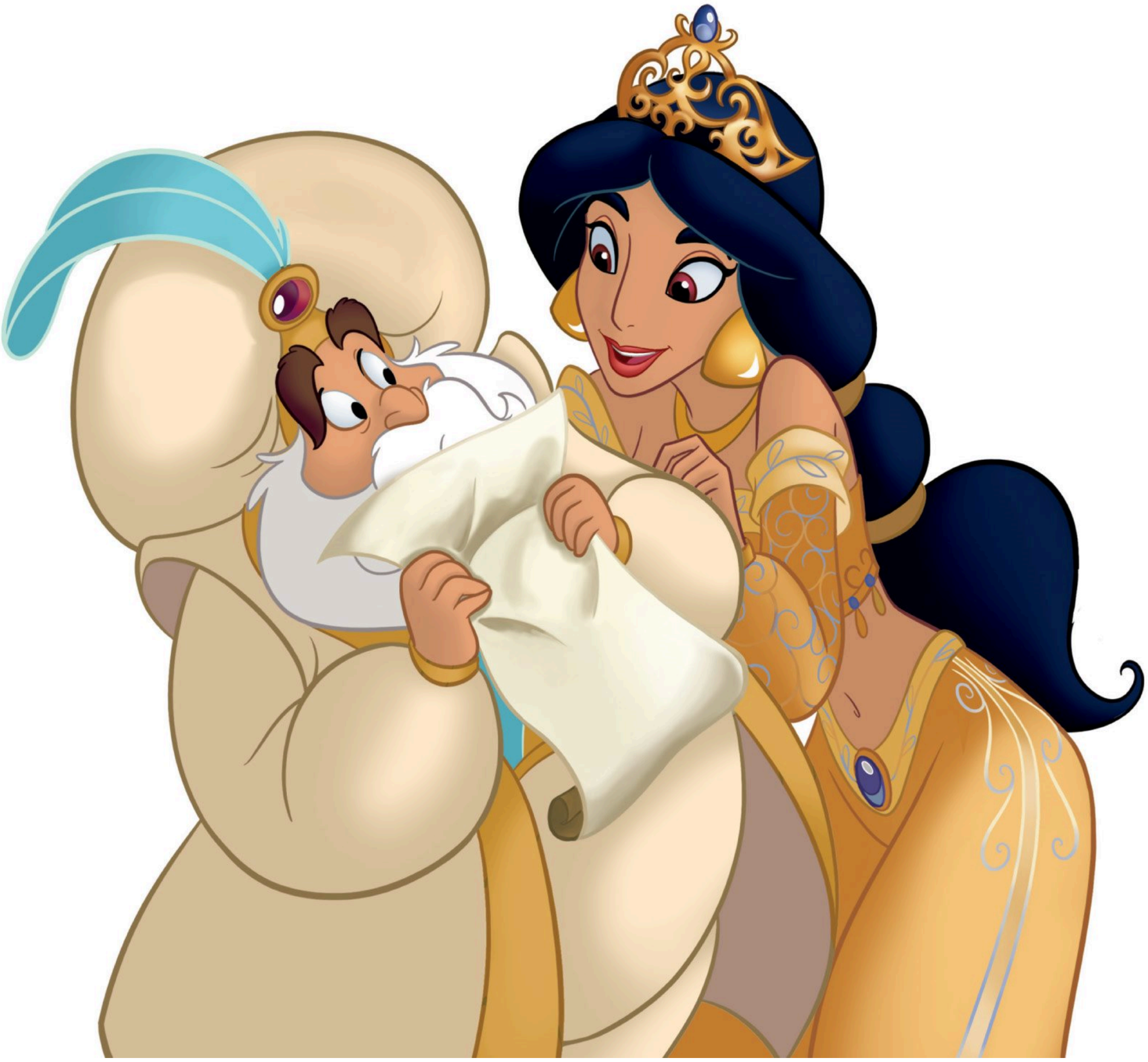


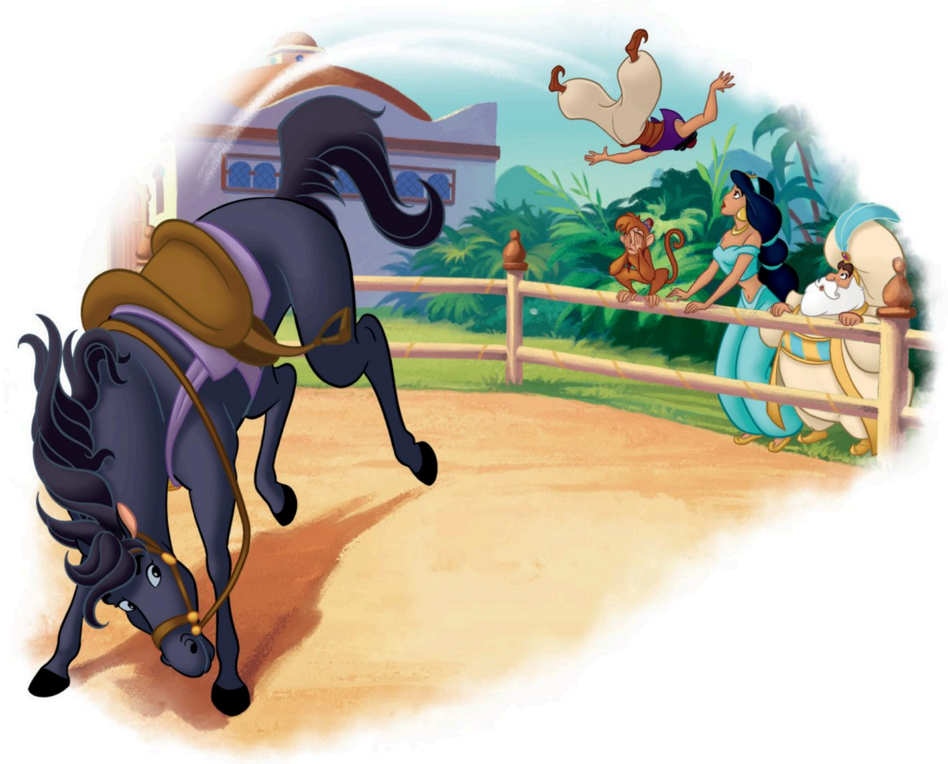
“I have an idea, Father!” Jasmine said eagerly. “I could ride my horse Midnight in the Desert Race this year. He’s the fastest horse in Agrabah!”

The Sultan wasn’t sure. Jasmine had never raced before.

“How about if *I* ride Midnight in the race?” Aladdin suggested. He had participated in many competitions on the streets of Agrabah.

They all agreed Aladdin would compete in the race.





Nobody but Jasmine had ever ridden Midnight. So the next day, they went to the stables to give Aladdin and the horse a chance to get to know each other.

When Aladdin went toward him with the saddle, Midnight jumped out of reach. When Aladdin swung up onto Midnight's back, the horse kicked up his heels. Aladdin went flying!

But when Jasmine climbed on the saddle, the horse did everything she asked.

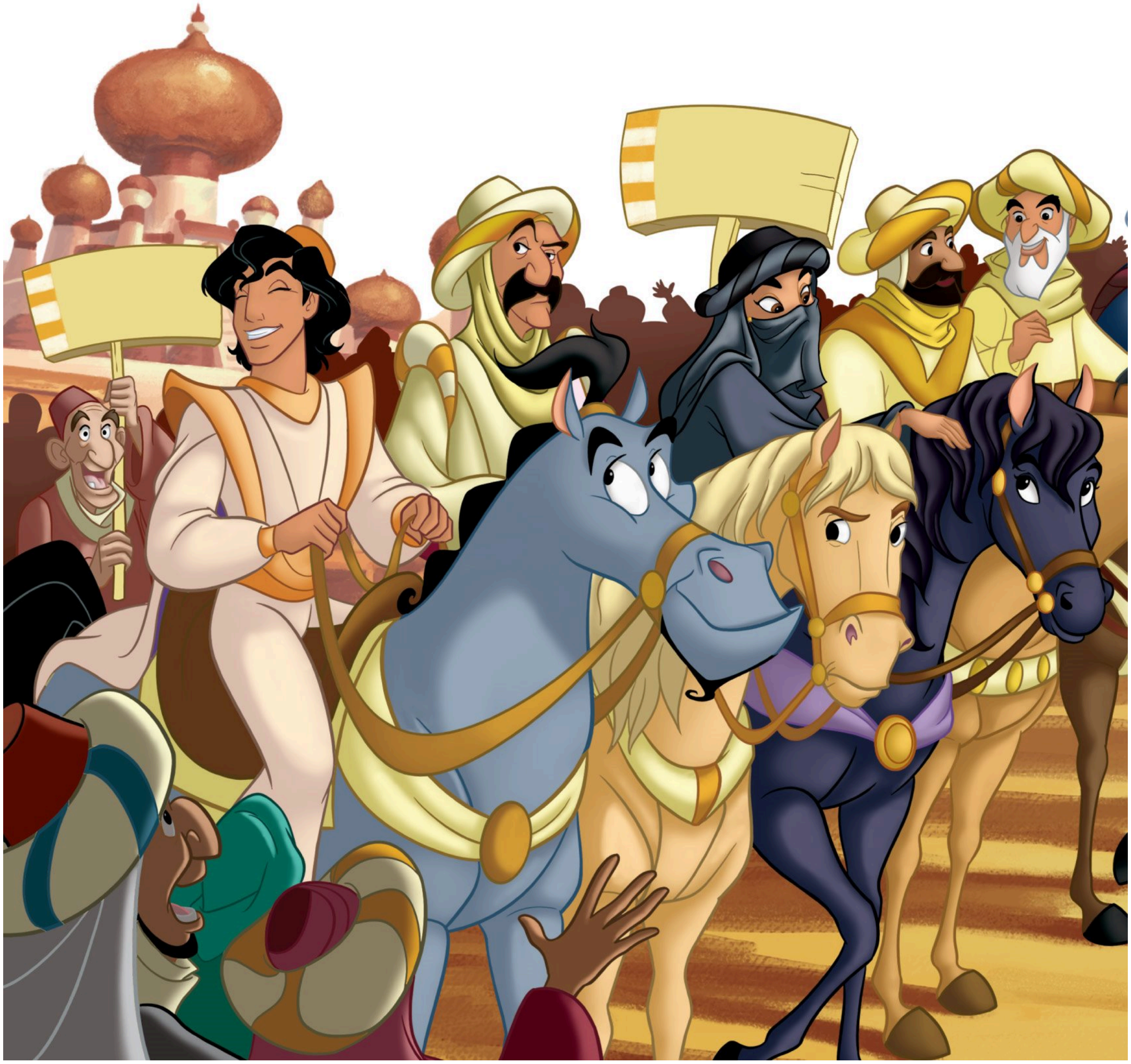
It looked like Midnight was a one-princess horse.

Aladdin said he would find another horse to ride in the race.

The day of the race arrived. Riders from the neighboring kingdom paraded into Agrabah, including the prince and his big white stallion.

When it was time for the race, fans jostled for the best views. It seemed everyone but Jasmine was there to watch.

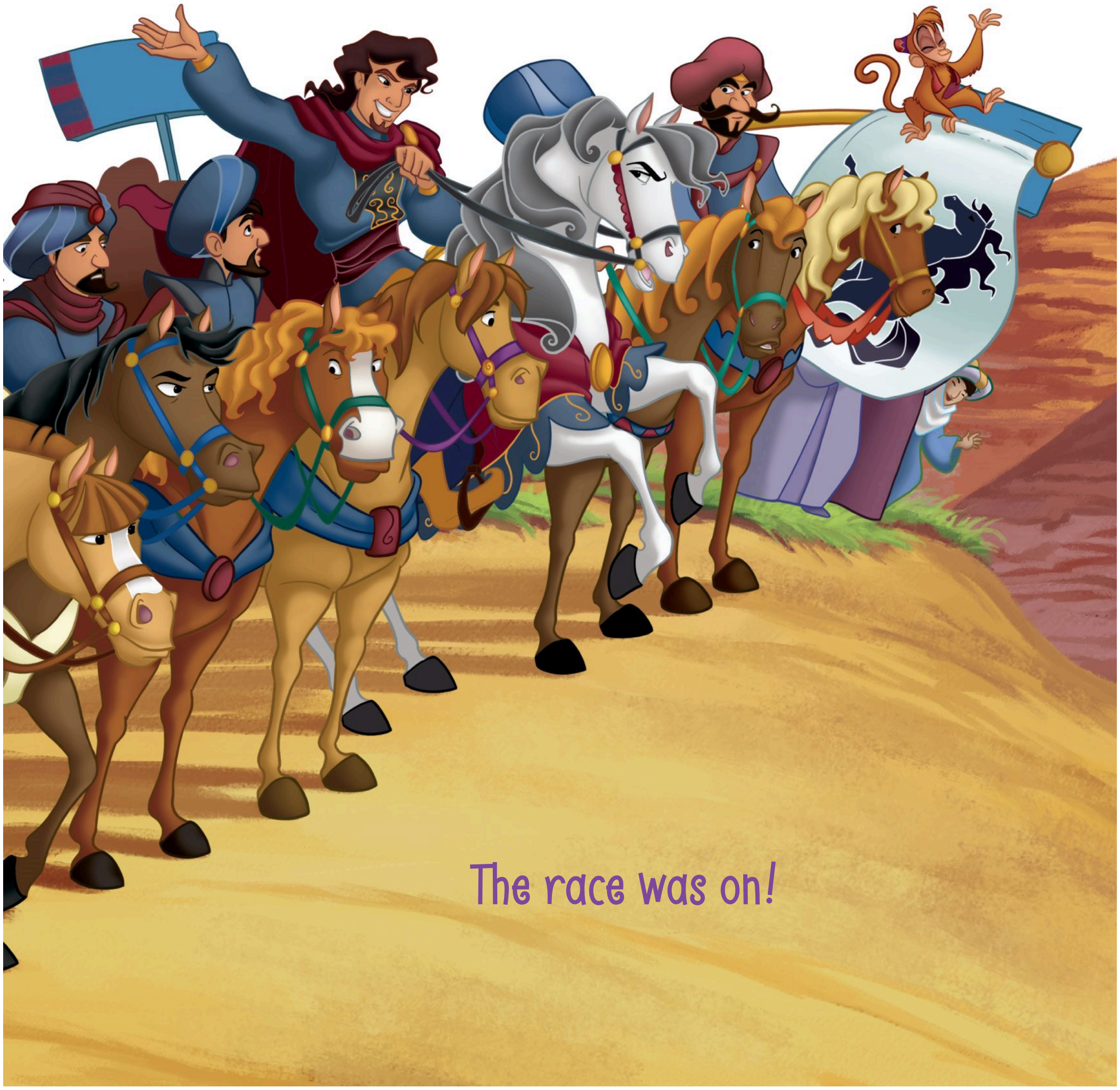
As they took their spot at the starting line, the prince and his horse looked confident.

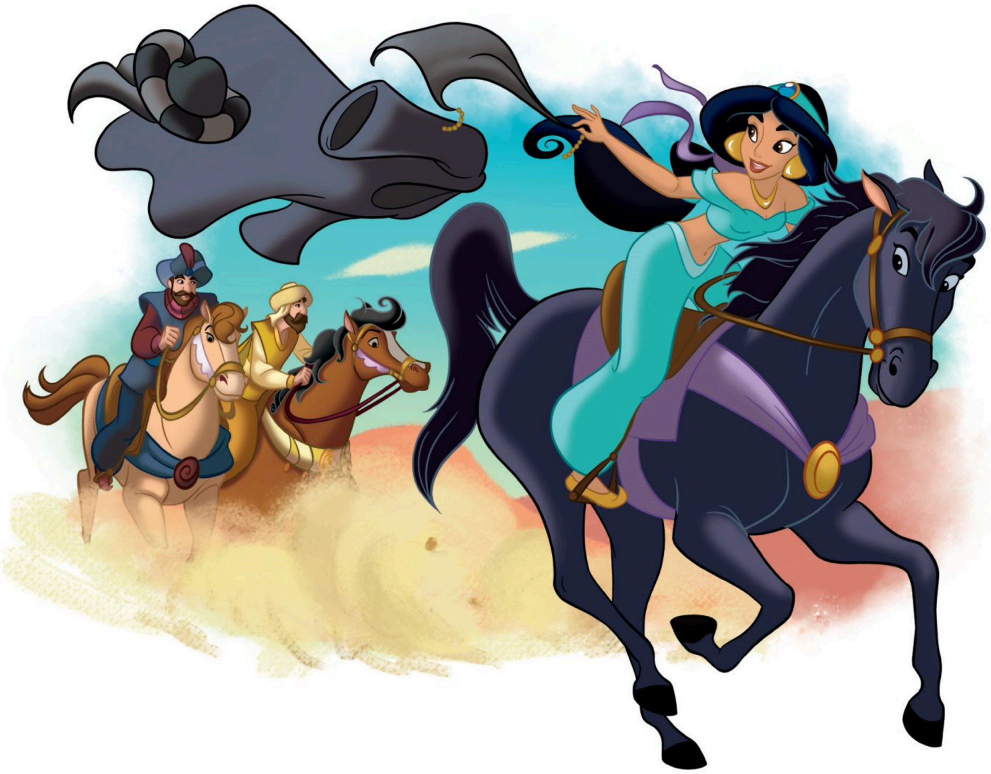


Suddenly, Aladdin joined the line. He was riding a very strange-looking blue horse.

In fact, it wasn't a horse at all. It was the Genie in disguise!

The Sultan raised his flag. "One, two, three . . ." he called. "And they're off!"


The race was on!



A black horse with a mysterious veiled rider took the lead right away. As soon as they were out of view of the palace, the rider threw off the veil. It was Jasmine!

"I had to prove you were the fastest horse," she whispered to Midnight.

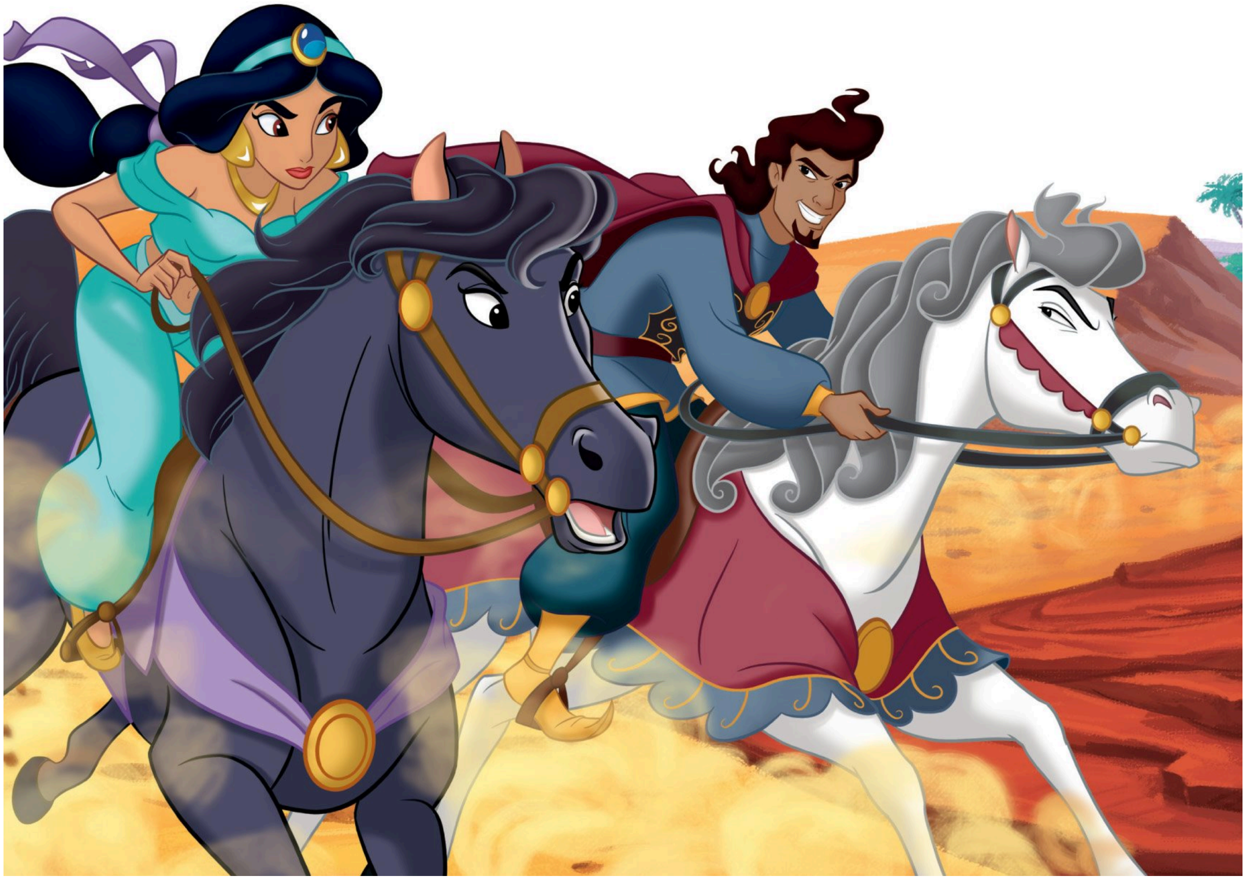
Jasmine raced hard to keep her lead ahead of the other riders.

As the race went on, Jasmine stayed in the lead. But then the prince and his horse started to catch up! They were shocked when they saw the princess. The prince didn't want to lose.

Jasmine urged her horse on, but Midnight couldn't seem to pull away. The prince's horse was big, strong, and *very* fast. Finally, it edged ahead of Midnight.

"Give up now!" the prince shouted.

Jasmine and Midnight weren't going to let the prince and his horse win. Midnight galloped hard and passed them.



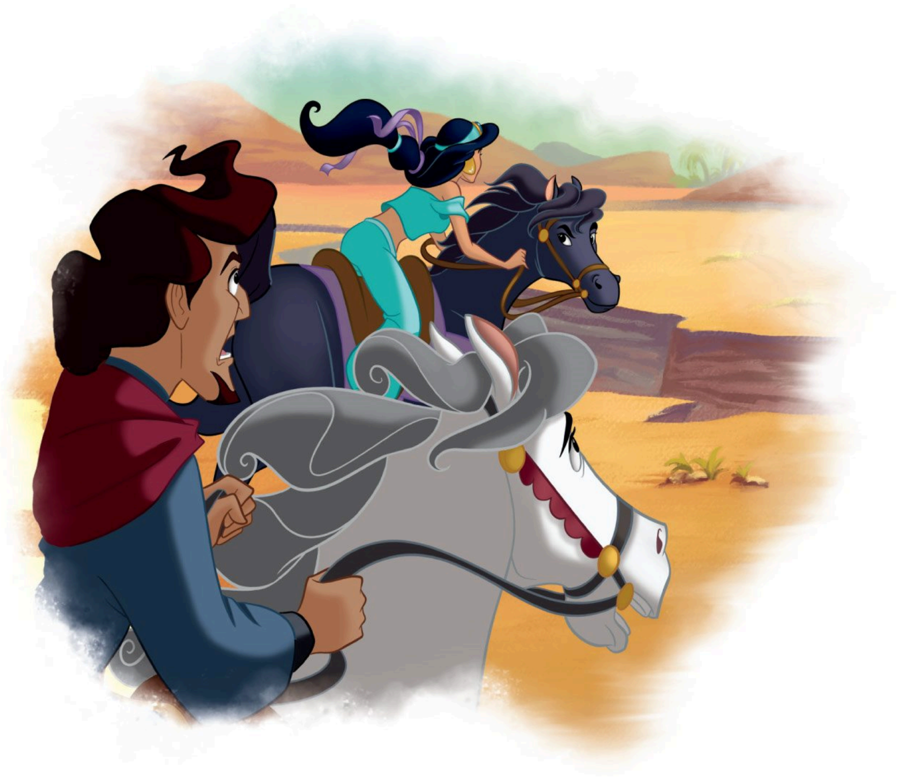
"That trophy is Agrabah's!" Jasmine called over her shoulder with a laugh.

But the prince and his horse weren't giving up, either. They stayed right at Midnight's heels . . . until the horses had to jump a ditch that crossed their path.

Midnight sailed over it easily, but the prince's horse skidded to a stop, throwing off its rider!

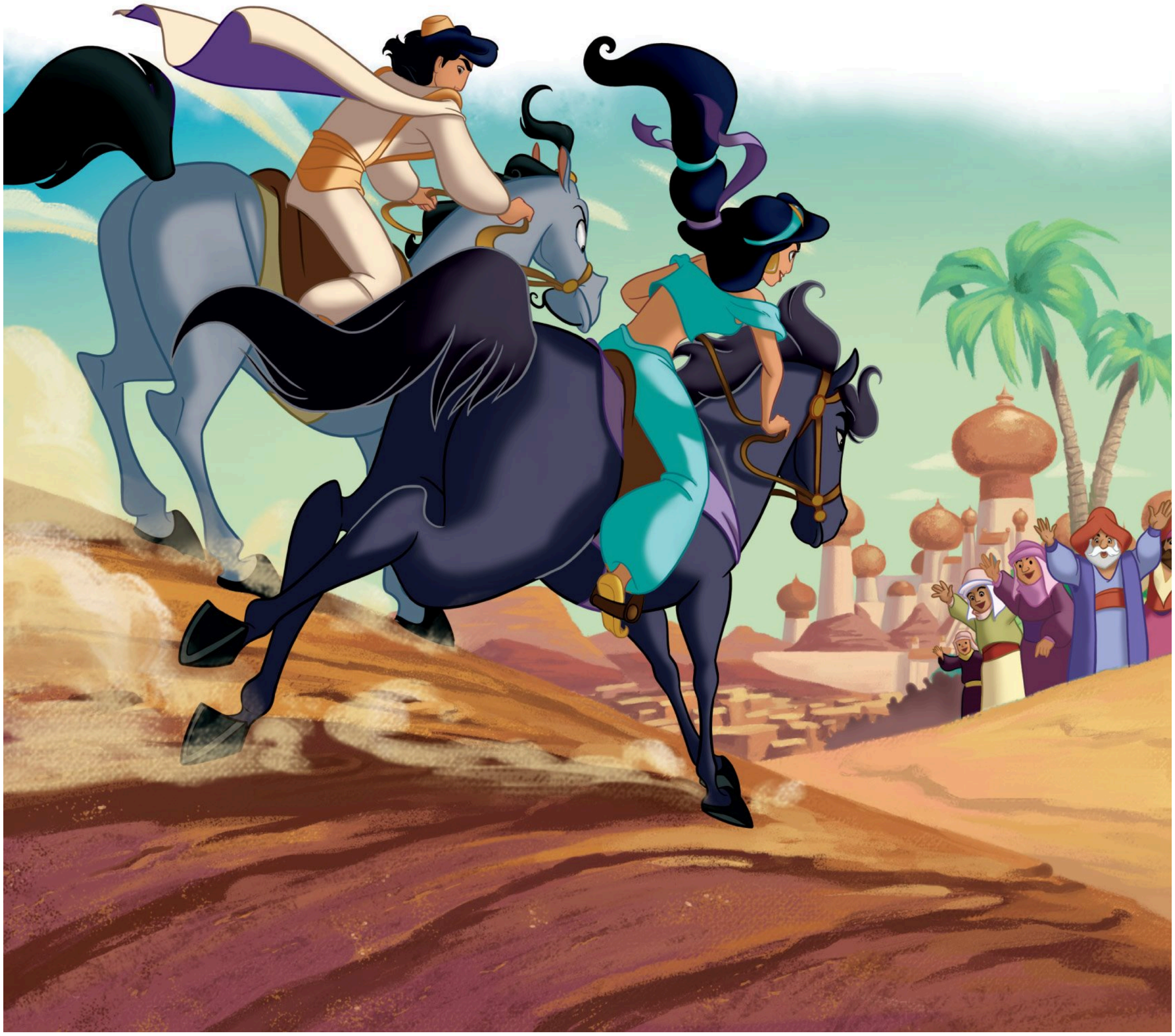
With the prince and his horse out of the running, it seemed there was nothing keeping Jasmine and Midnight from winning.

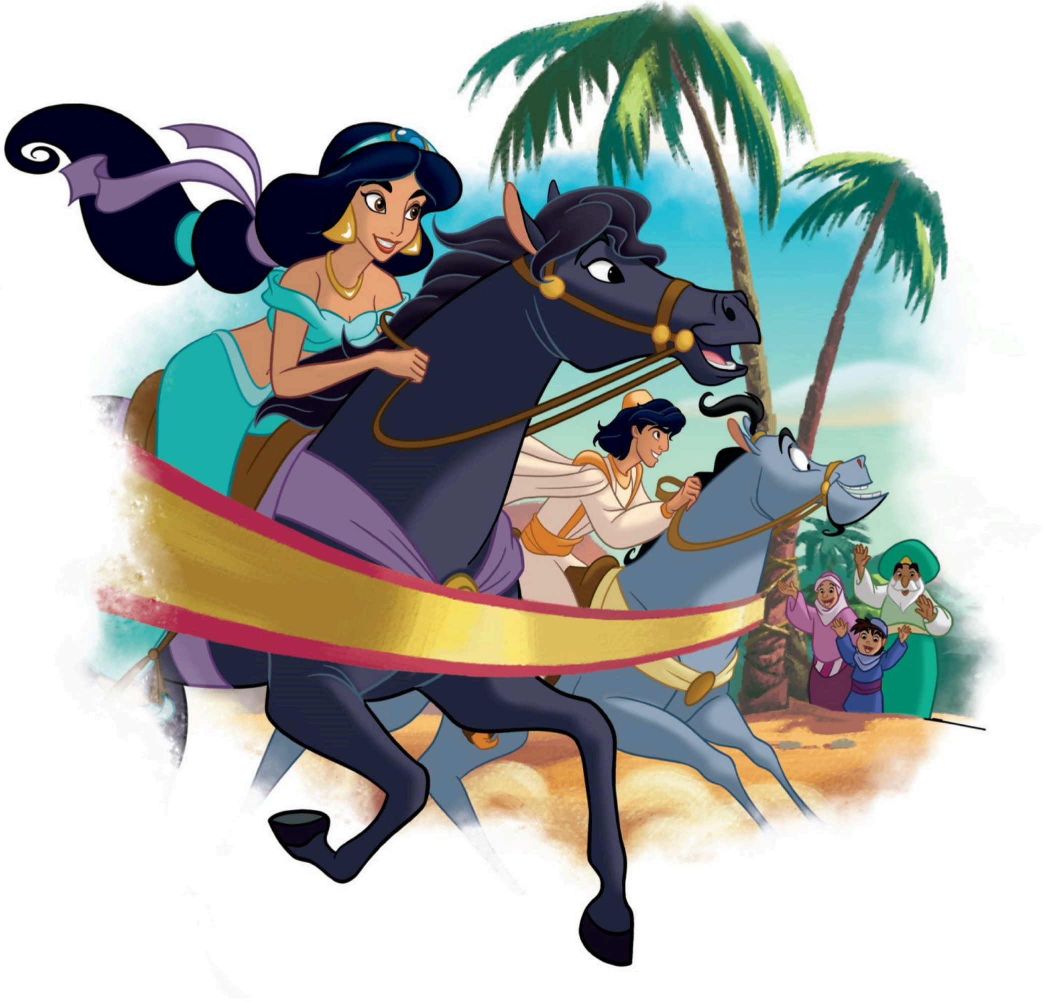
But just then, Jasmine heard the sound of hoofbeats right behind her. They were coming up fast!



Jasmine turned back to see who was following her. She gasped. It was Aladdin! And there was something off about his horse.

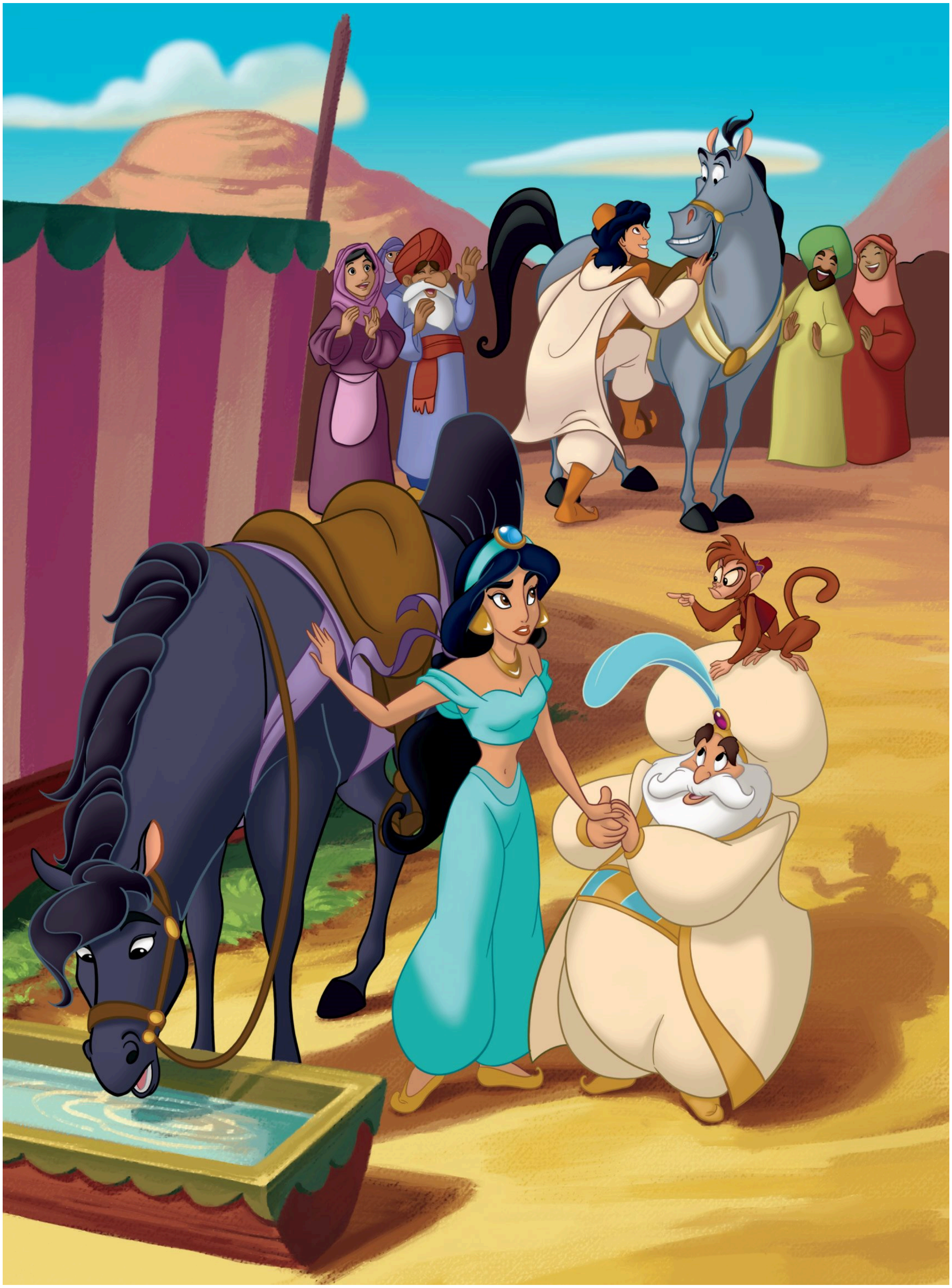
Soon Aladdin and his mystery horse had caught up, and he and Jasmine were fighting for the lead. Jasmine *really* wanted to prove that Midnight was the fastest horse in the two kingdoms, and that she was the best rider. She pushed Midnight harder and harder.





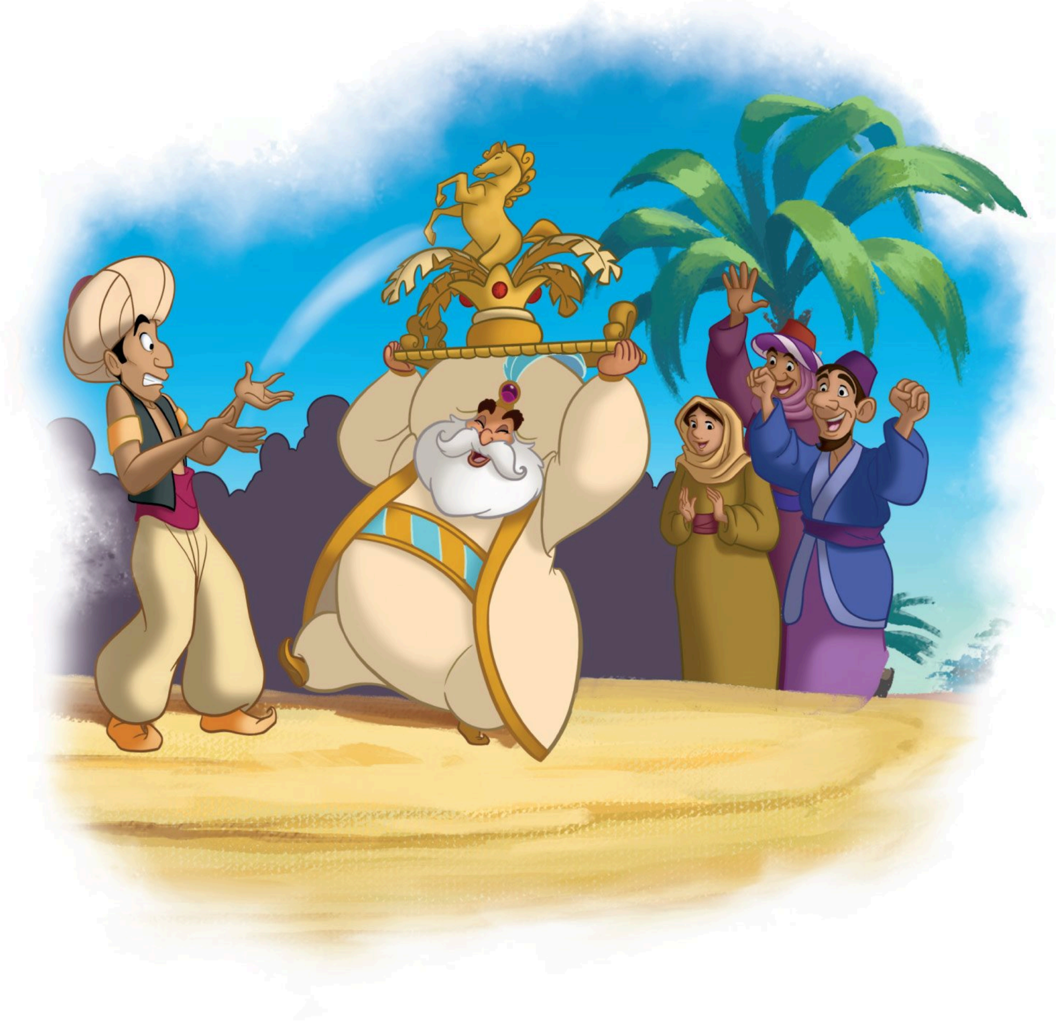
As they neared the finish line, the two horses were neck and neck. First Midnight would pull ahead a tiny bit, then Aladdin's horse would take over. But neither could keep the lead.

The two horses crossed the finish line at the same time!



As soon as Midnight slowed to a stop, Jasmine jumped off. She gave her tired horse a hug and led him to the water trough for a drink.

Her father ran over. “Excellent work, you two! Jasmine, you are a natural racer!” the Sultan cried, grabbing the trophy and holding it up. “Agrabah is victorious at last! Twice over, in fact!”



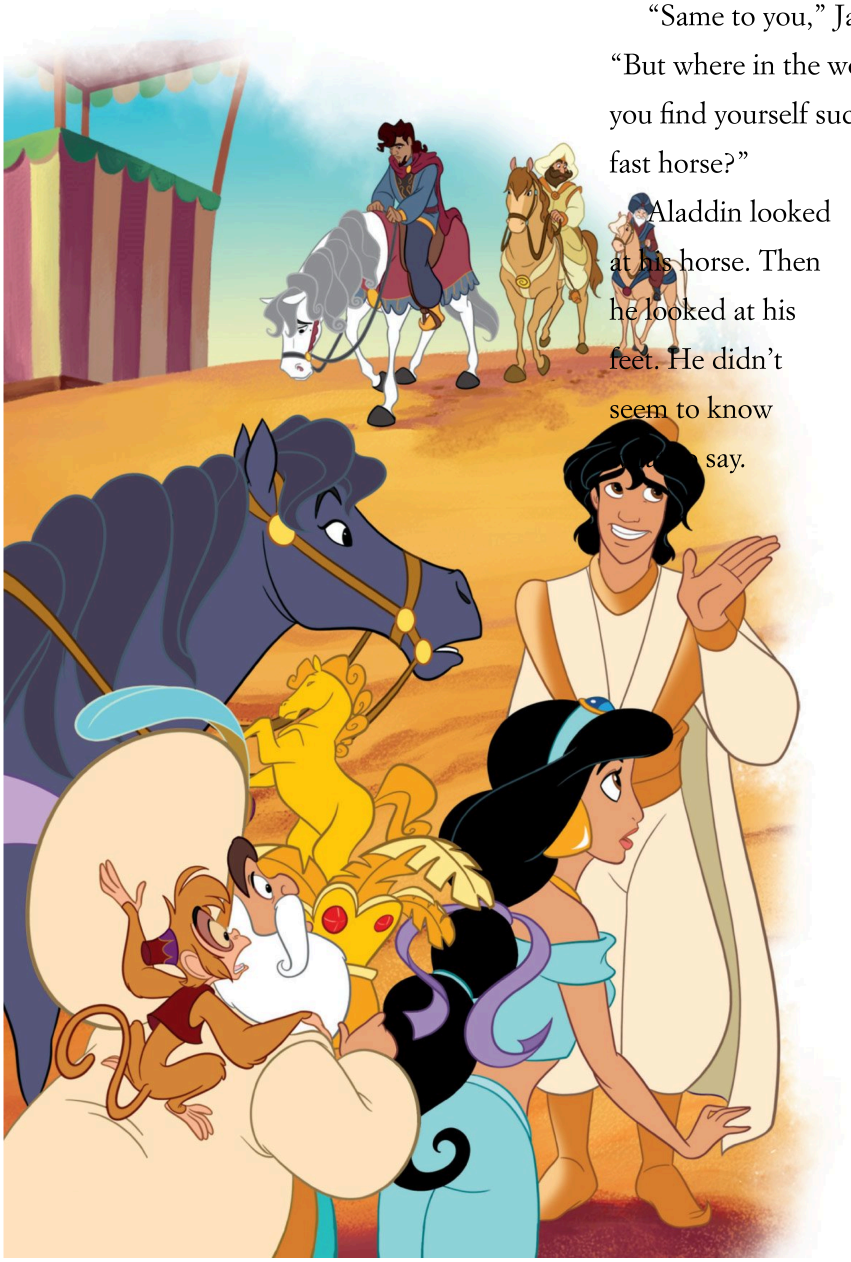
Her father was right. Both she and Aladdin had won. She needed to congratulate him—and ask him a question.

She walked over to Aladdin, who was standing with his odd-looking horse.

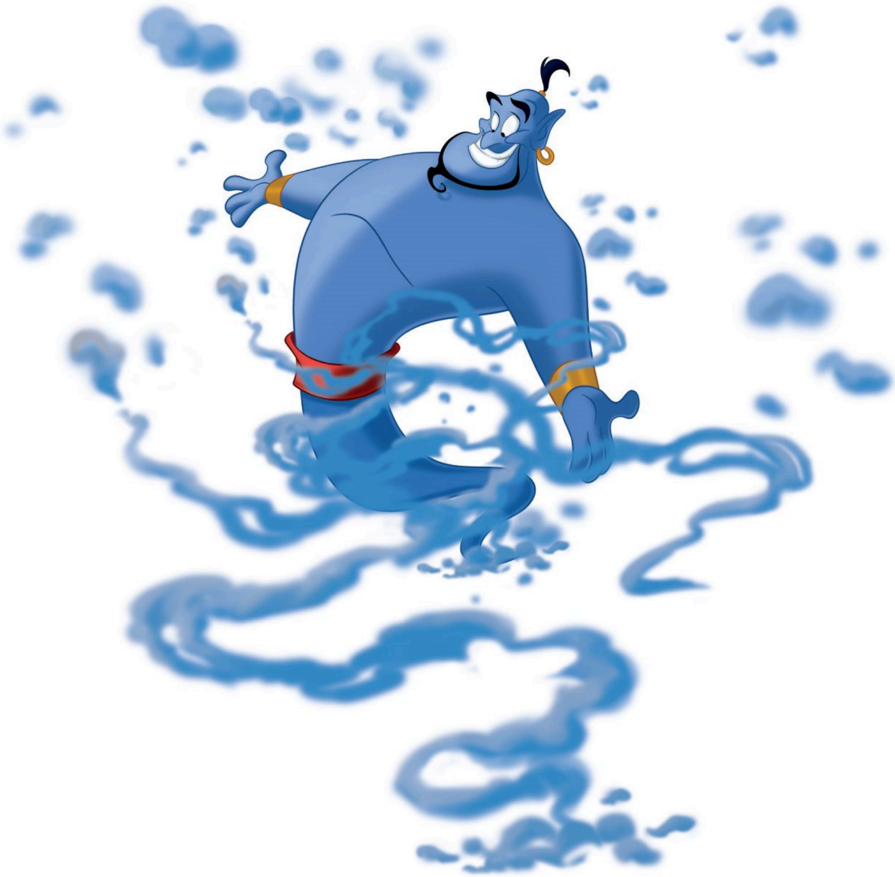
“Congratulations!” he said when he saw her.

“Same to you,” Jasmine replied. “But where in the world did you find yourself such a fast horse?”

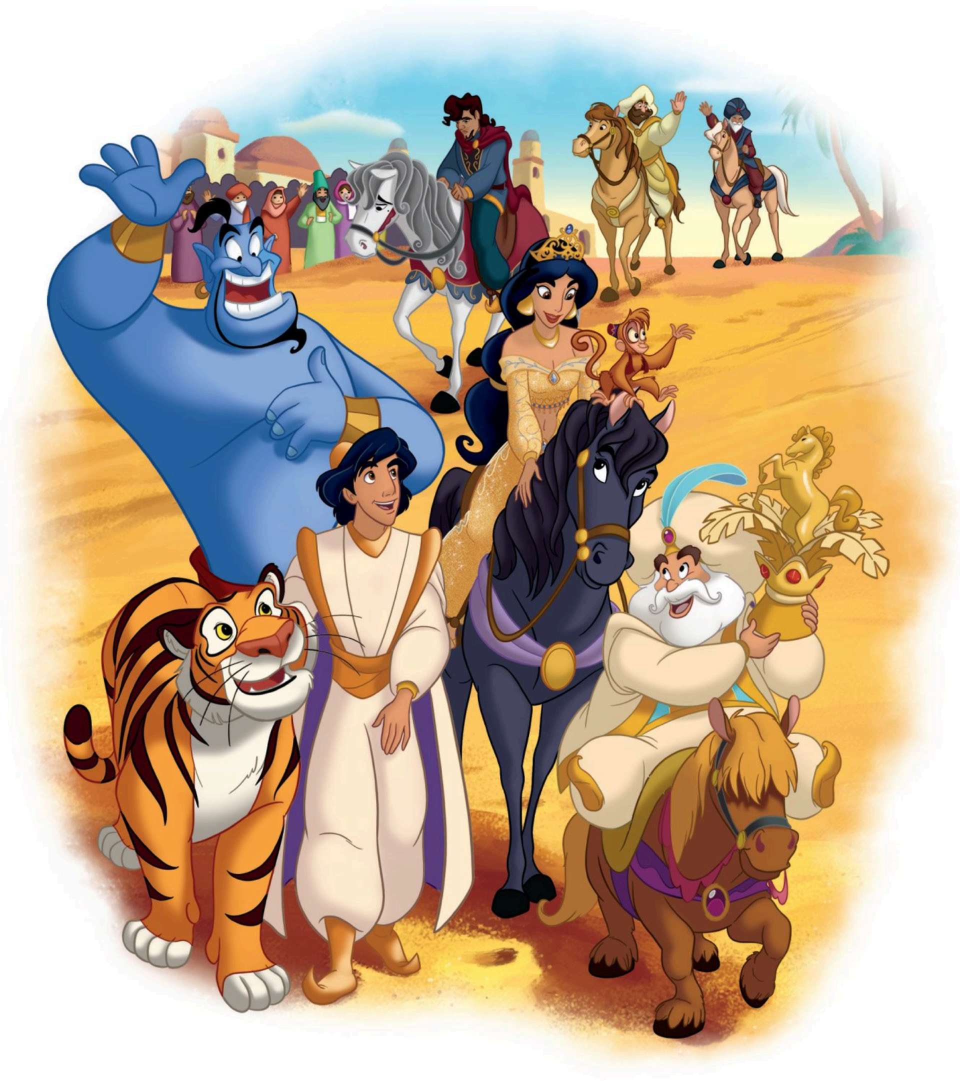
Aladdin looked at his horse. Then he looked at his feet. He didn’t seem to know what to say.



Just then, the Genie changed from a horse back into his usual form. Jasmine gasped. "Sorry, Princess," the Genie said with a wink. "We were just horsing around!"



When the Sultan realized what Aladdin had done, he frowned. The rules said only a horse-and-rider team could win the trophy. Aladdin and the Genie were disqualified. And that meant . . . Jasmine and Midnight were the winners!



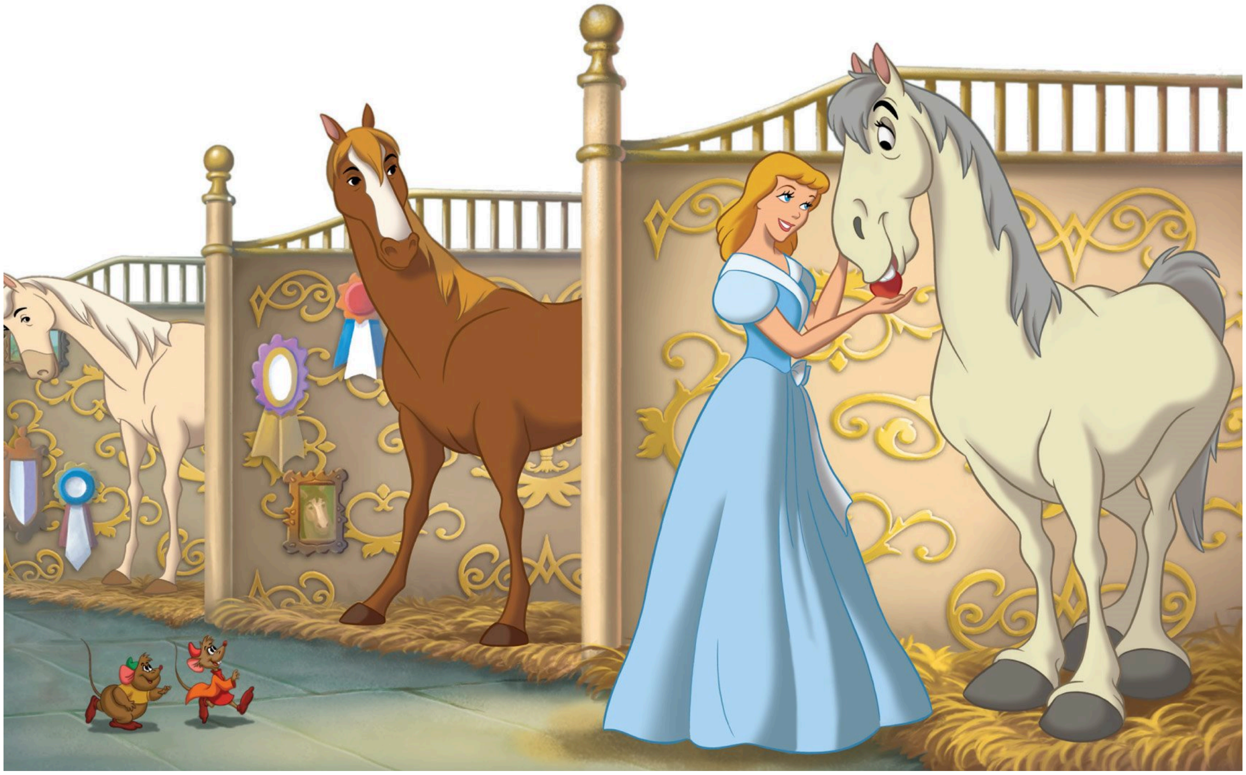
Jasmine patted Midnight proudly. Soon she and Midnight took their spots at the head of the victory parade. She had always known Midnight was fast. But she'd never imagined he was so fast that he could match a genie for speed!

Disney Cinderella

Heart of a Champion

Life at the palace was a dream come true for Cinderella, and she took care to share her good fortune with everyone she loved. This included her dear old horse, Major, who had been her faithful friend since she was a child.

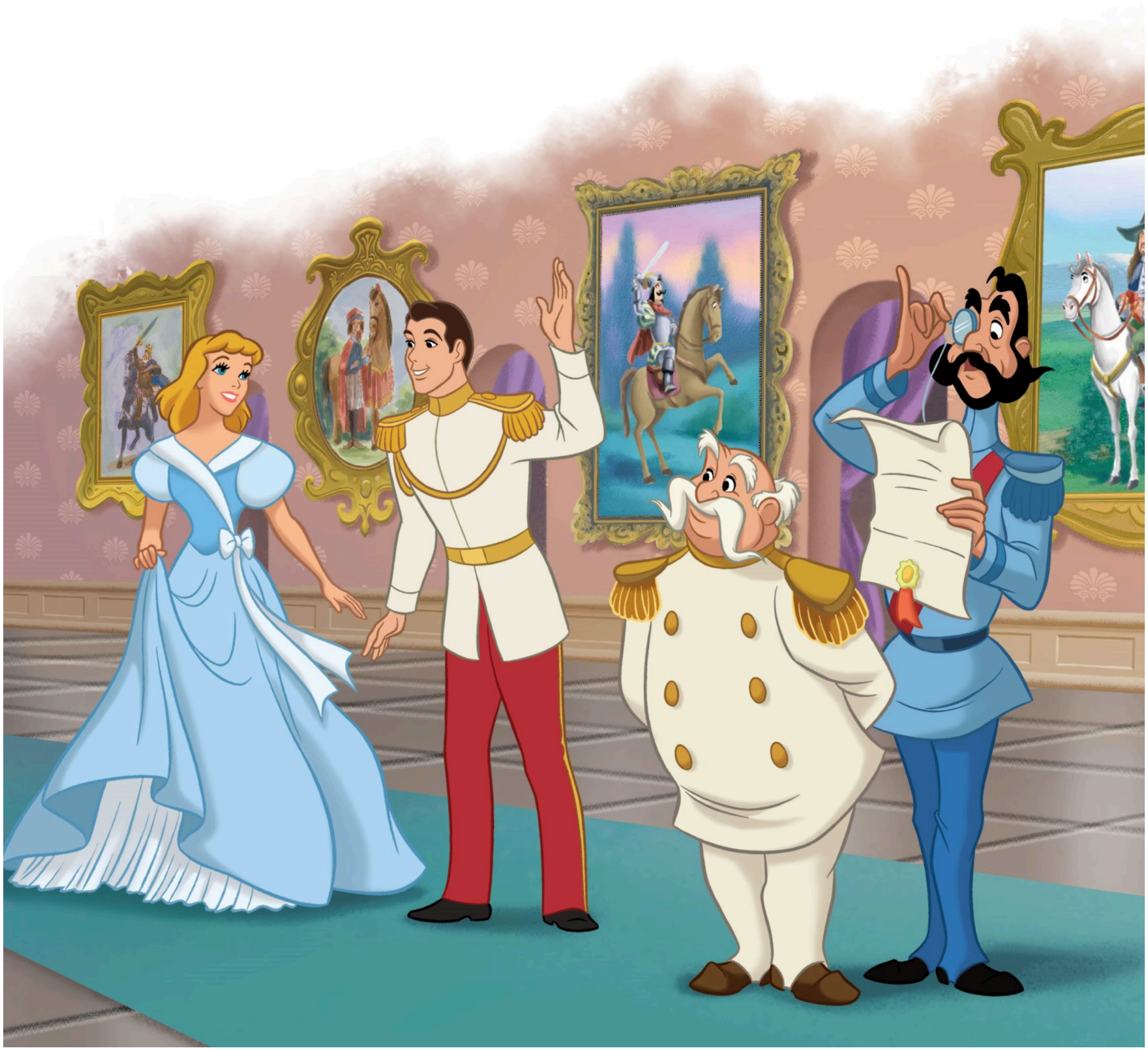
One day, Cinderella was visiting Major in the royal stable when her mouse friends Jaq and Gus ran up to tell her that a messenger had arrived at the palace! Cinderella said goodbye to Major and the other horses and hurried off to hear the news.

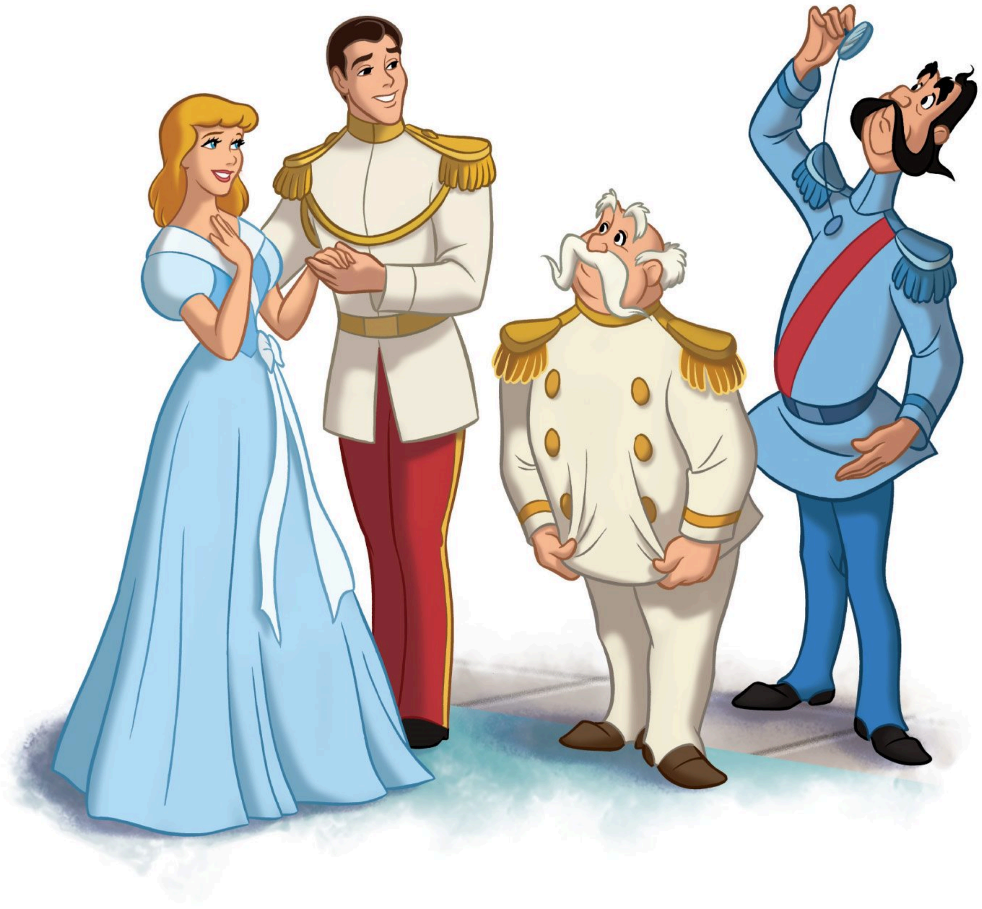


Cinderella arrived at the castle just in time to hear the Grand Duke read the invitation aloud: "'Dear King—'" he began.

"That's me!" the King said.

"Quite so," the Grand Duke agreed. "Ahem. 'You and your family are hereby invited to attend this year's annual Royal International Horse Show, to be held exactly one week from today. Please choose one member from your royal household to represent you in the competition.'"





“You know, Father,” the Prince spoke up, “there’s no finer rider in the kingdom than Cinderella. I think she should represent us.”

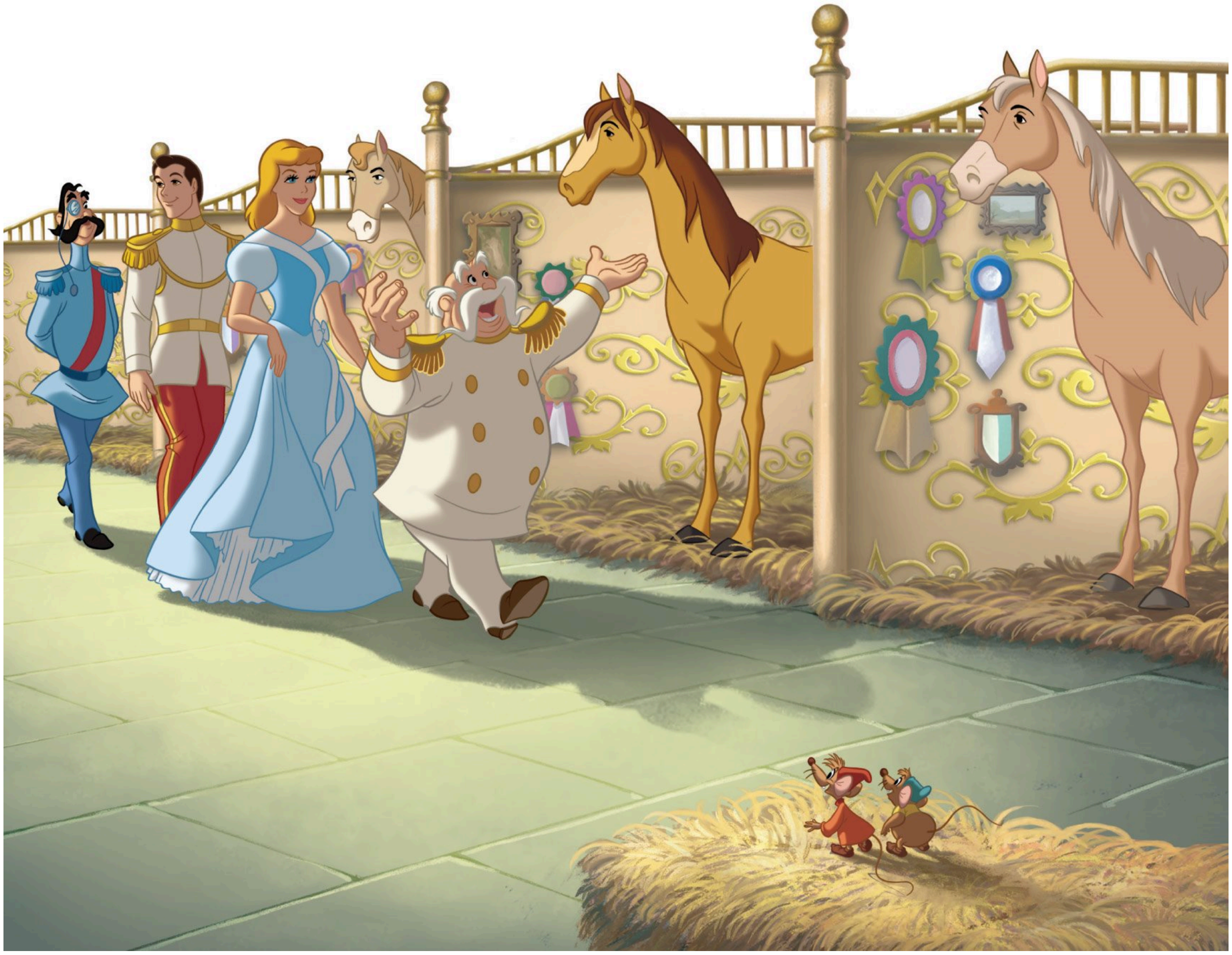
“Cinderella?” the King said in surprise. He rubbed his chin thoughtfully, then smiled. “That,” he declared, “is an excellent idea!”

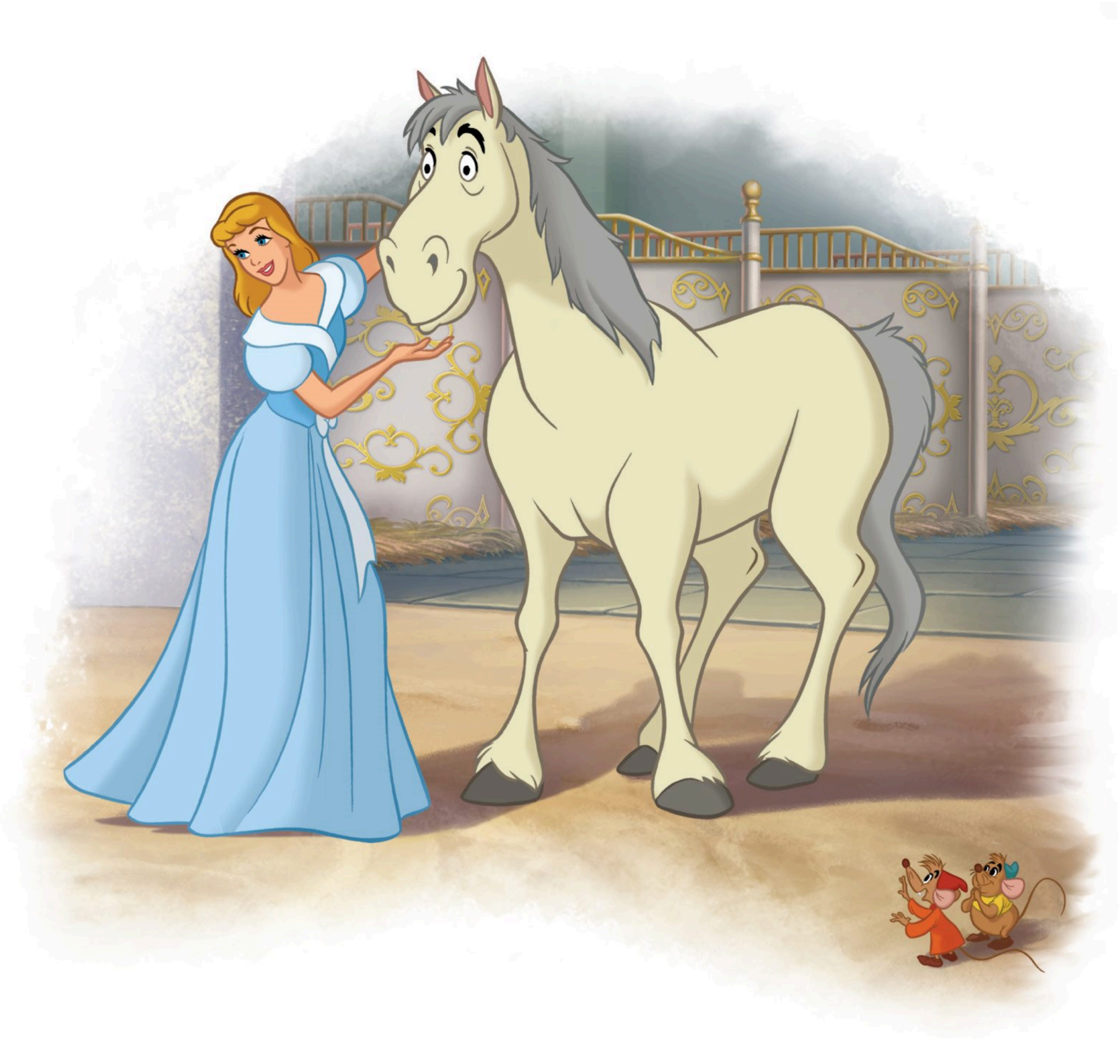
The next thing Cinderella knew, the King was leading her out of the palace and back to the royal stable.

"Naturally," he told Cinderella, his voice echoing across the stalls, "the finest rider in the kingdom must have the finest horse in the kingdom. I have a stable full of champions, my dear. We'll choose the best of the best, and you can begin training right away. Ah, yes! I can see those blue ribbons already!"

But none of the King's horses was quite right.

"Please wait outside for a moment," Cinderella told the King, the Prince, and the Grand Duke. "I know the perfect horse. You'll see!"

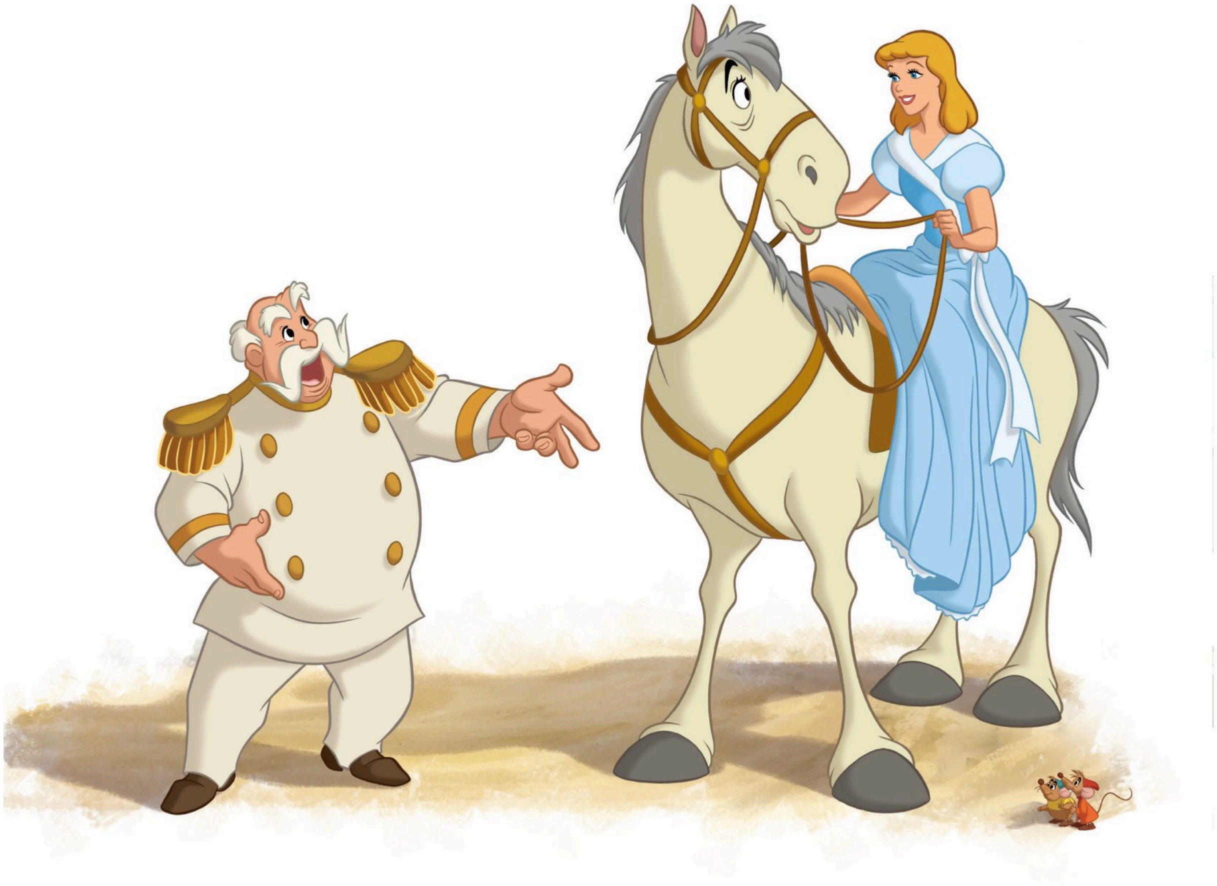




Soon Cinderella came out, leading Major! The old horse was a bit bewildered to find himself on display before the King. The King stared at Cinderella and Major in disbelief.

“What’s this?” he demanded.

“Why, ‘this’ is a horse!” Cinderella replied with a laugh. She rubbed Major’s shaggy mane. “The best horse in the kingdom, in fact!”



“My dear,” said the King, turning up his nose, “if none of my horses suits your fancy, I can have another hundred champions here by morning.”

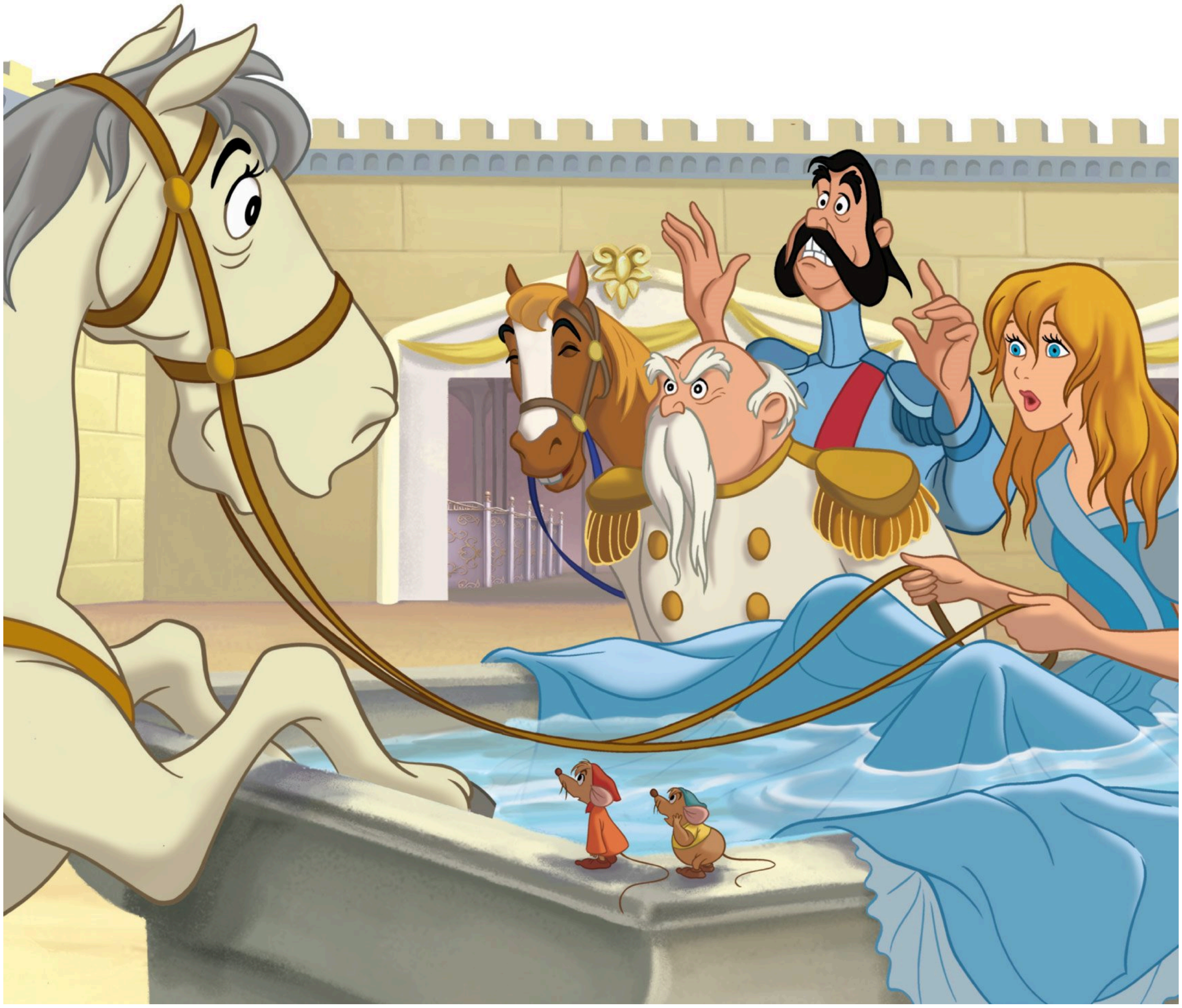
“Major may be old,” said Cinderella, “but he has the heart of a champion!”

And with that, she saddled Major and swung herself up.

“Come on, Major,” she said. “Let’s show them what you’ve got.”

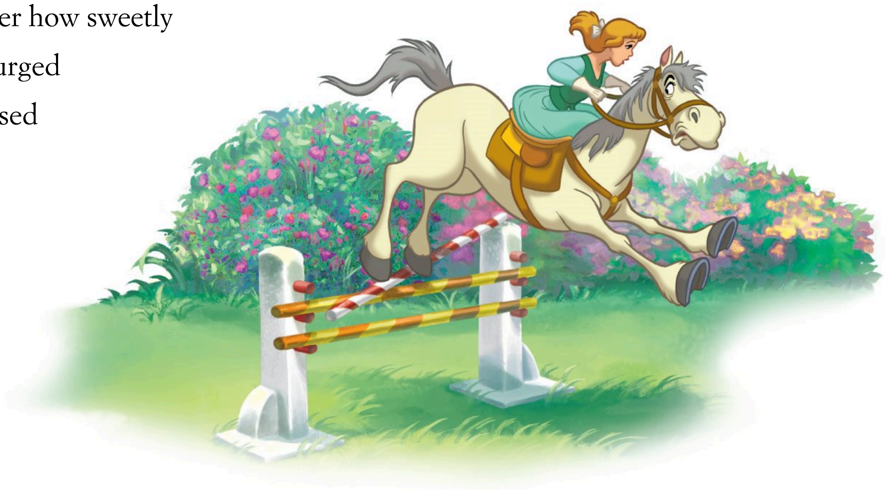
But the first thing Major did was trip over a nearby water trough. Cinderella flew over Major's head. She landed in the trough with a splash! The other horses whinnied with laughter. Major hung his head.

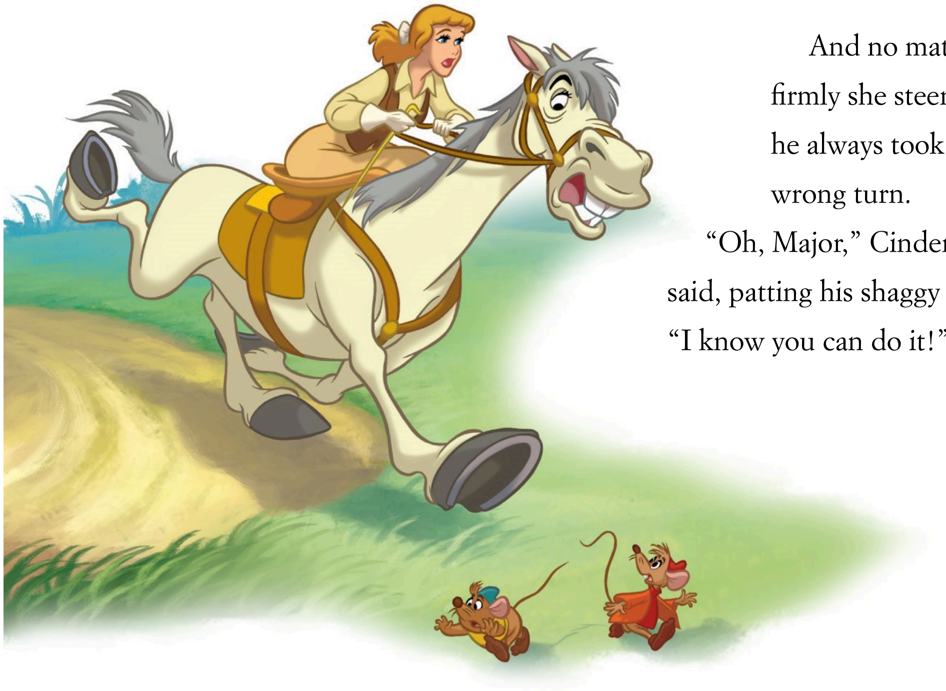
"Don't worry," Cinderella said to the King, as well as to Major. "By next week, we'll be ready."



Every day for a week, Cinderella and Major trained for hours. But Major kept making mistakes.

No matter how sweetly Cinderella urged him, he missed every jump.





And no matter how firmly she steered him, he always took the wrong turn.

"Oh, Major," Cinderella said, patting his shaggy head, "I know you can do it!"

But no one else was quite so sure—especially not Major!

At last, it was the night before the royal horse show.

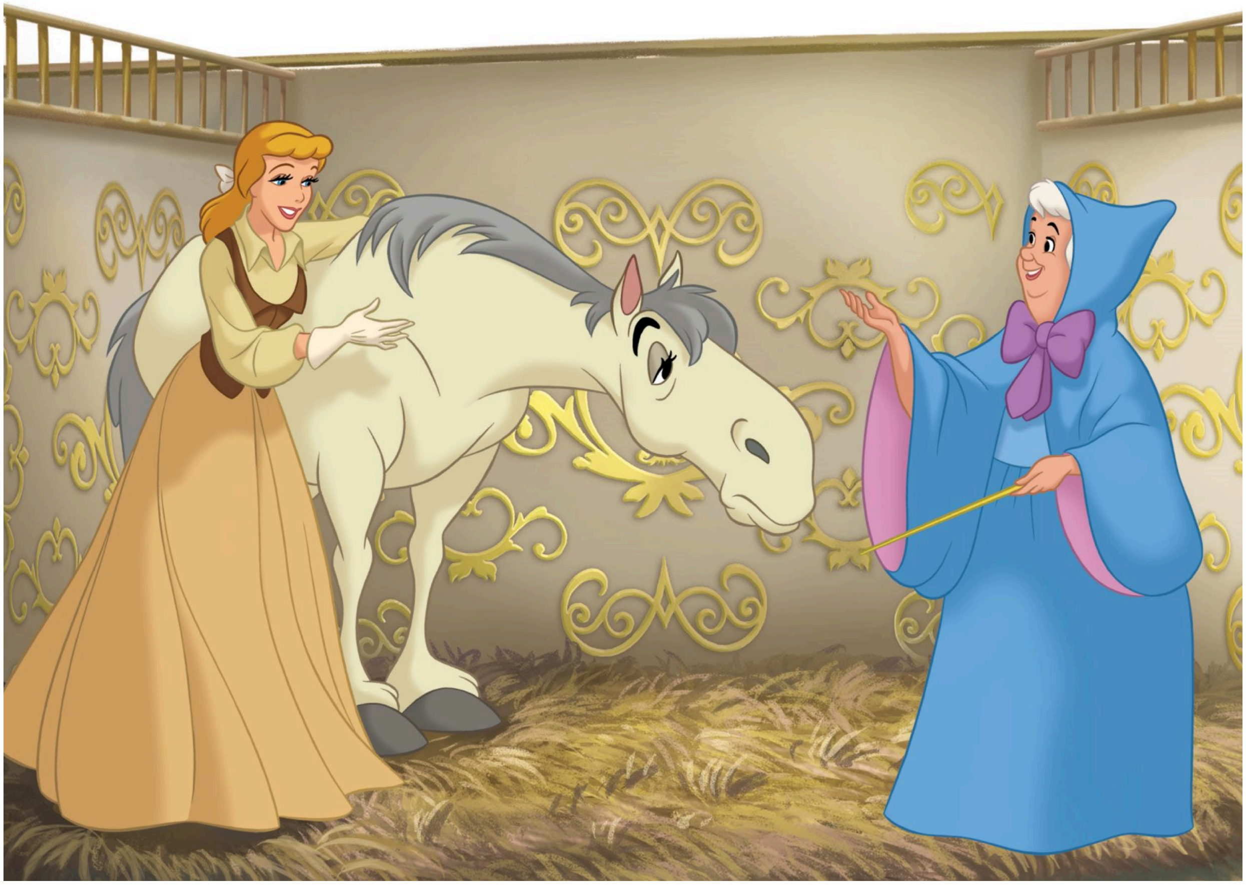
"Please don't worry," Cinderella told Major. "You're going to be wonderful. Tomorrow will be fun!"

But Major didn't seem to believe her.

"Did someone say 'fun'?" somebody asked. Cinderella turned around. It was her fairy godmother!

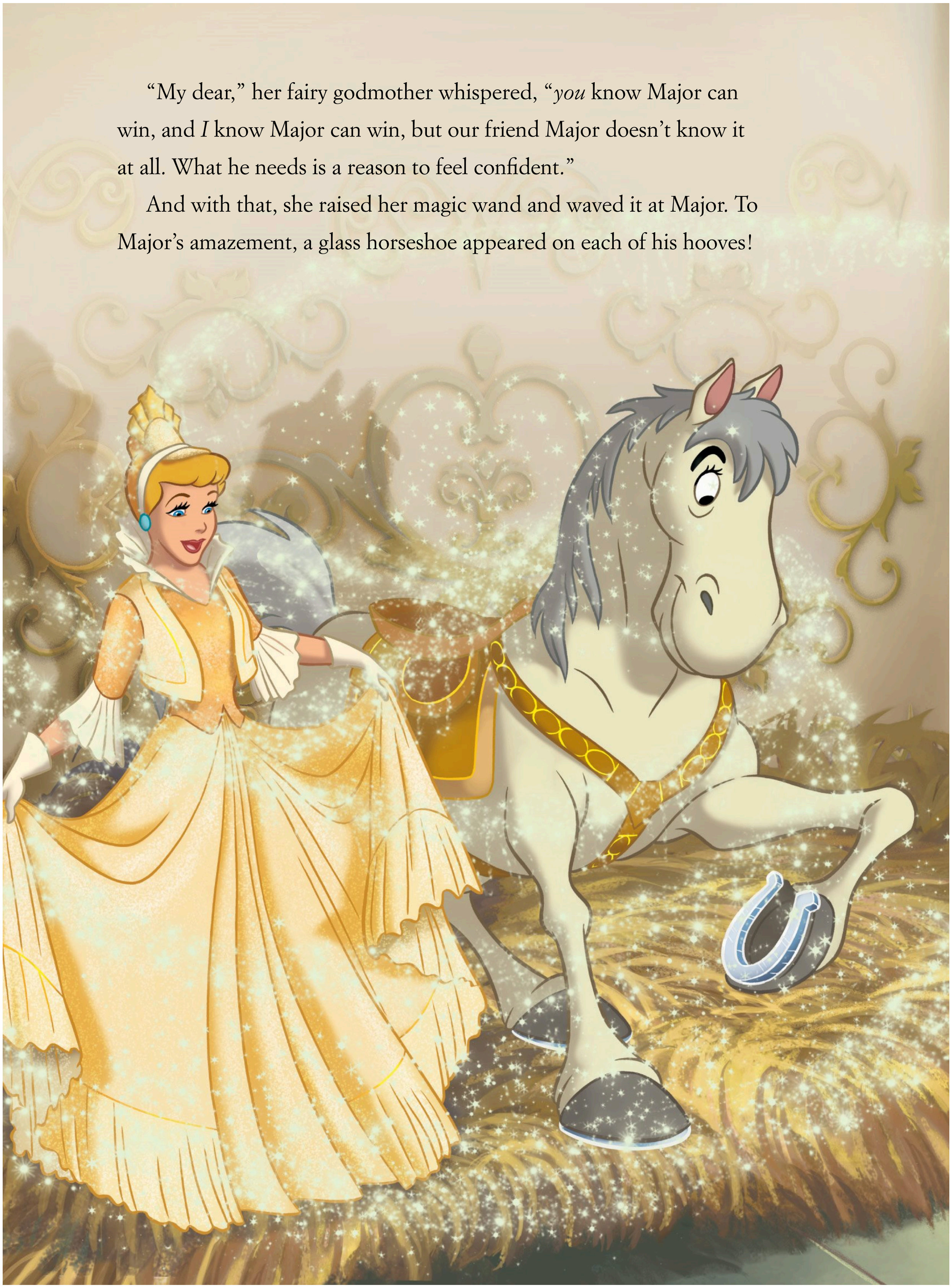
"I overheard your little mouse friends talking," she explained. "They said you needed a miracle. So here I am!"

Cinderella laughed and shook her head. "Oh, that's kind of you," she said. "But we don't need a miracle—just a good night's sleep."



"My dear," her fairy godmother whispered, "*you* know Major can win, and *I* know Major can win, but our friend Major doesn't know it at all. What he needs is a reason to feel confident."

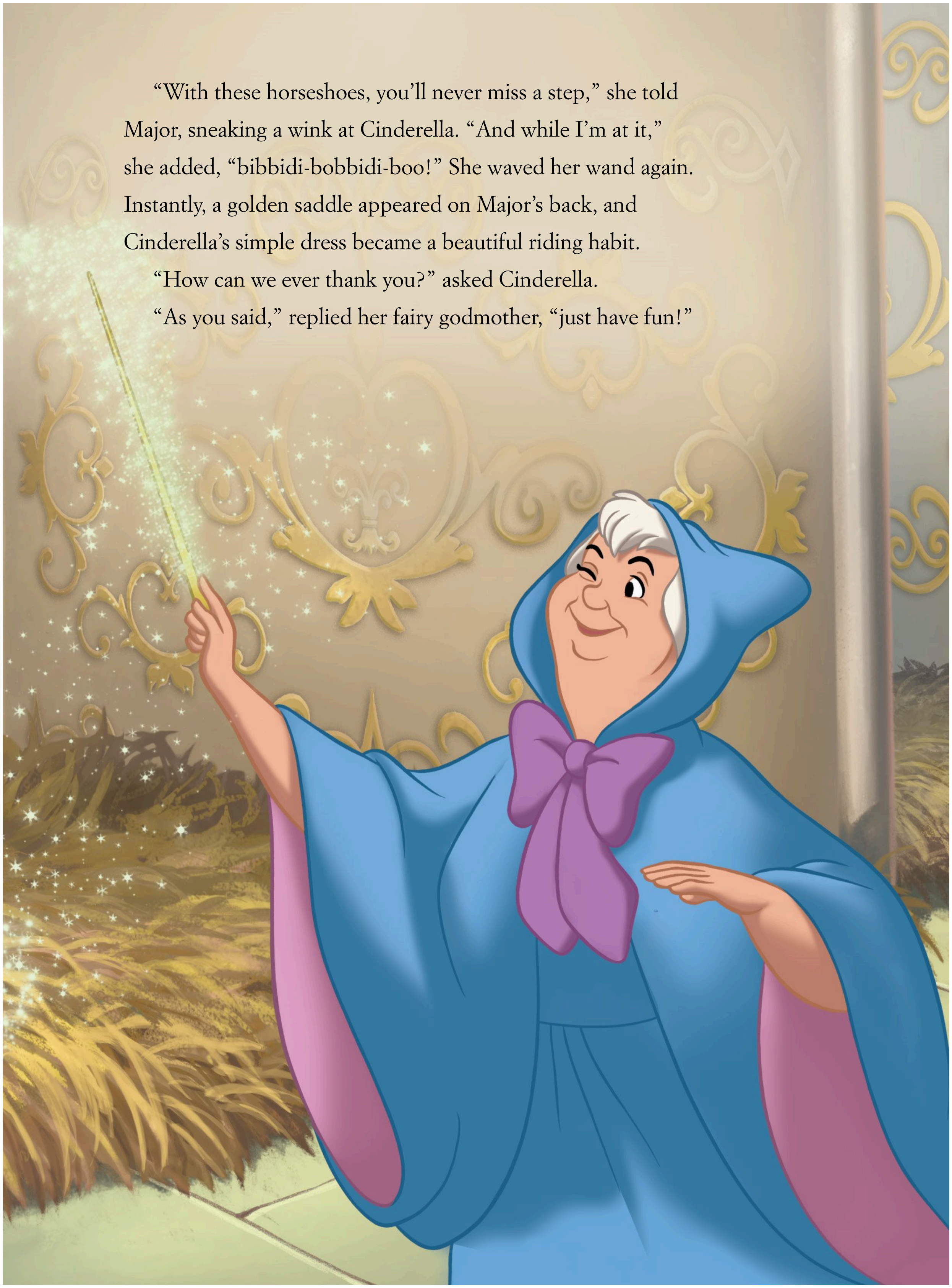
And with that, she raised her magic wand and waved it at Major. To Major's amazement, a glass horseshoe appeared on each of his hooves!



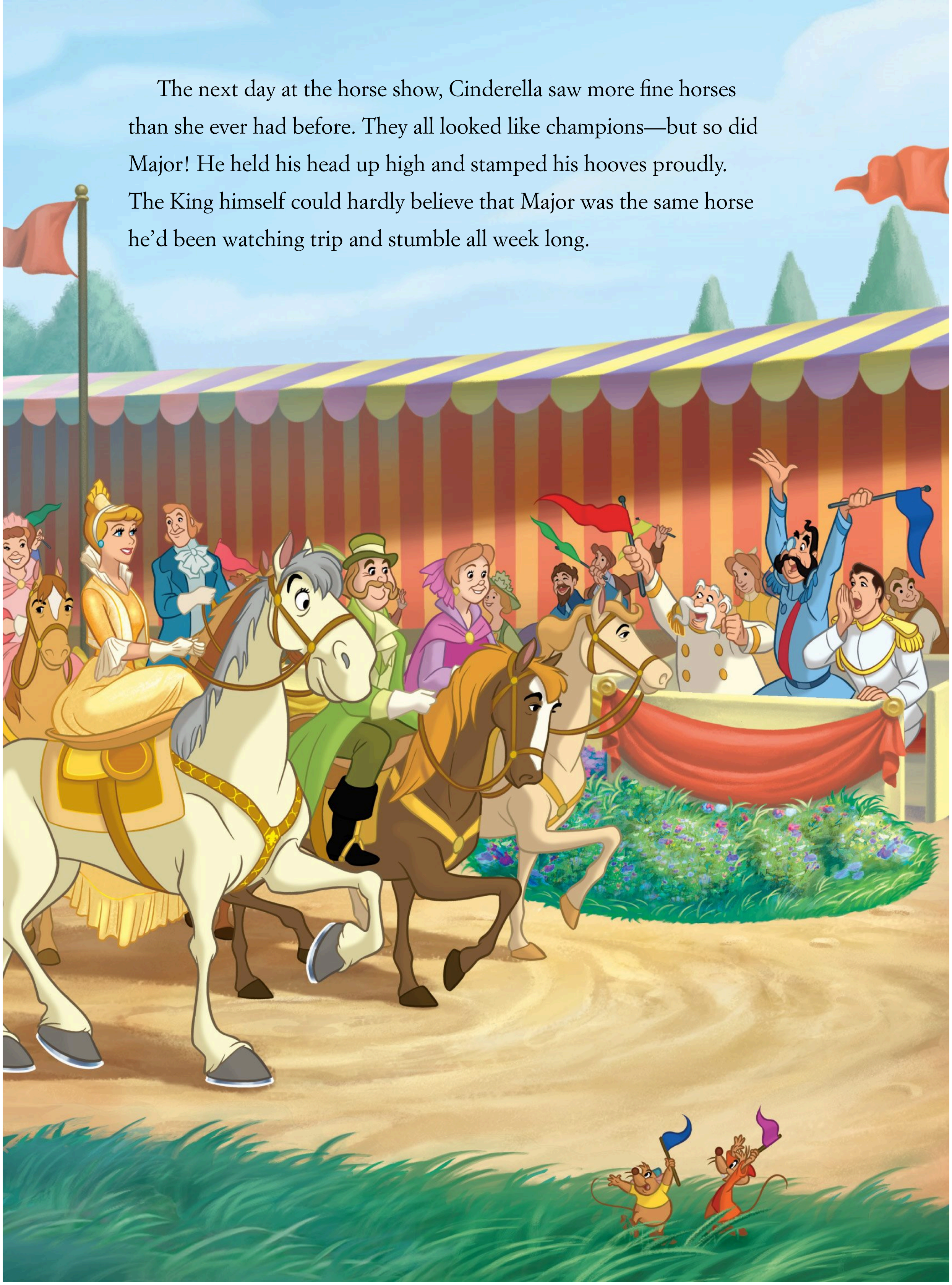
“With these horseshoes, you’ll never miss a step,” she told Major, sneaking a wink at Cinderella. “And while I’m at it,” she added, “bibbidi-bobbidi-boo!” She waved her wand again. Instantly, a golden saddle appeared on Major’s back, and Cinderella’s simple dress became a beautiful riding habit.

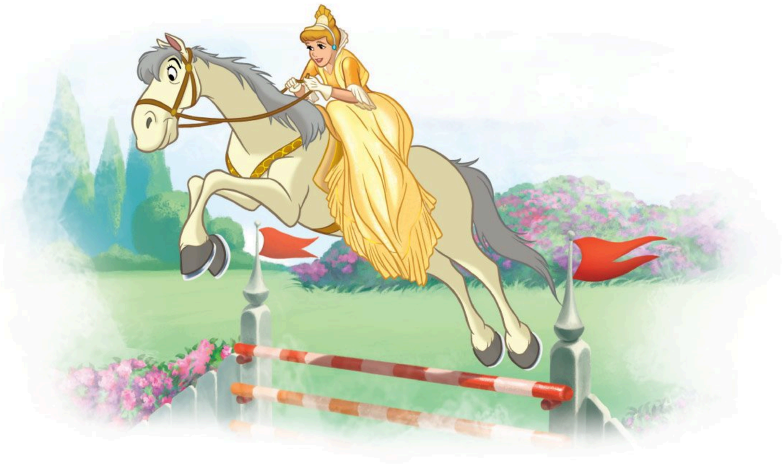
“How can we ever thank you?” asked Cinderella.

“As you said,” replied her fairy godmother, “just have fun!”



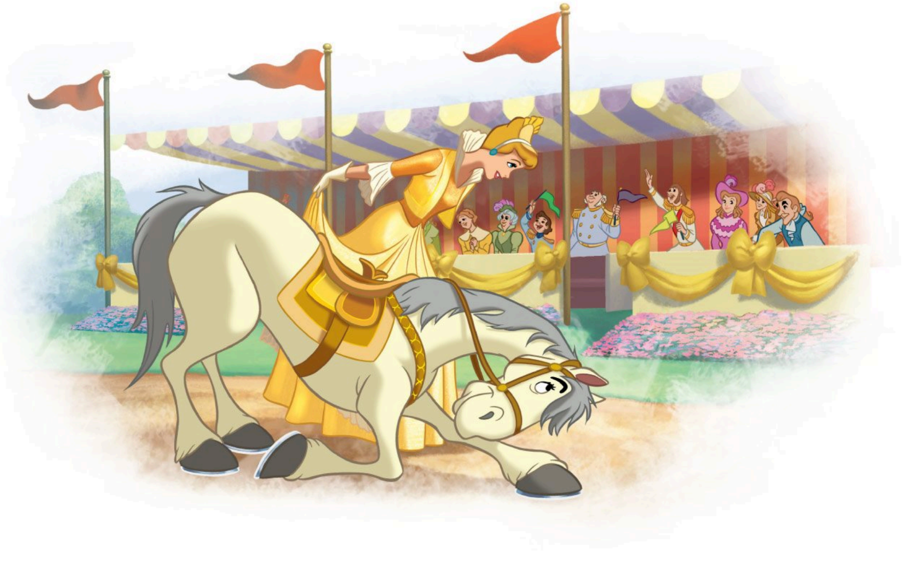
The next day at the horse show, Cinderella saw more fine horses than she ever had before. They all looked like champions—but so did Major! He held his head up high and stamped his hooves proudly. The King himself could hardly believe that Major was the same horse he'd been watching trip and stumble all week long.





Major cleared every jump with ease and never took an awkward step or a wrong turn. He even managed a graceful little bow at the end. And it was all thanks to the magical glass horseshoes—or so Major thought.

Cinderella knew better, though. The glass horseshoes just gave Major the confidence he needed to show everyone the great horse he had always been.



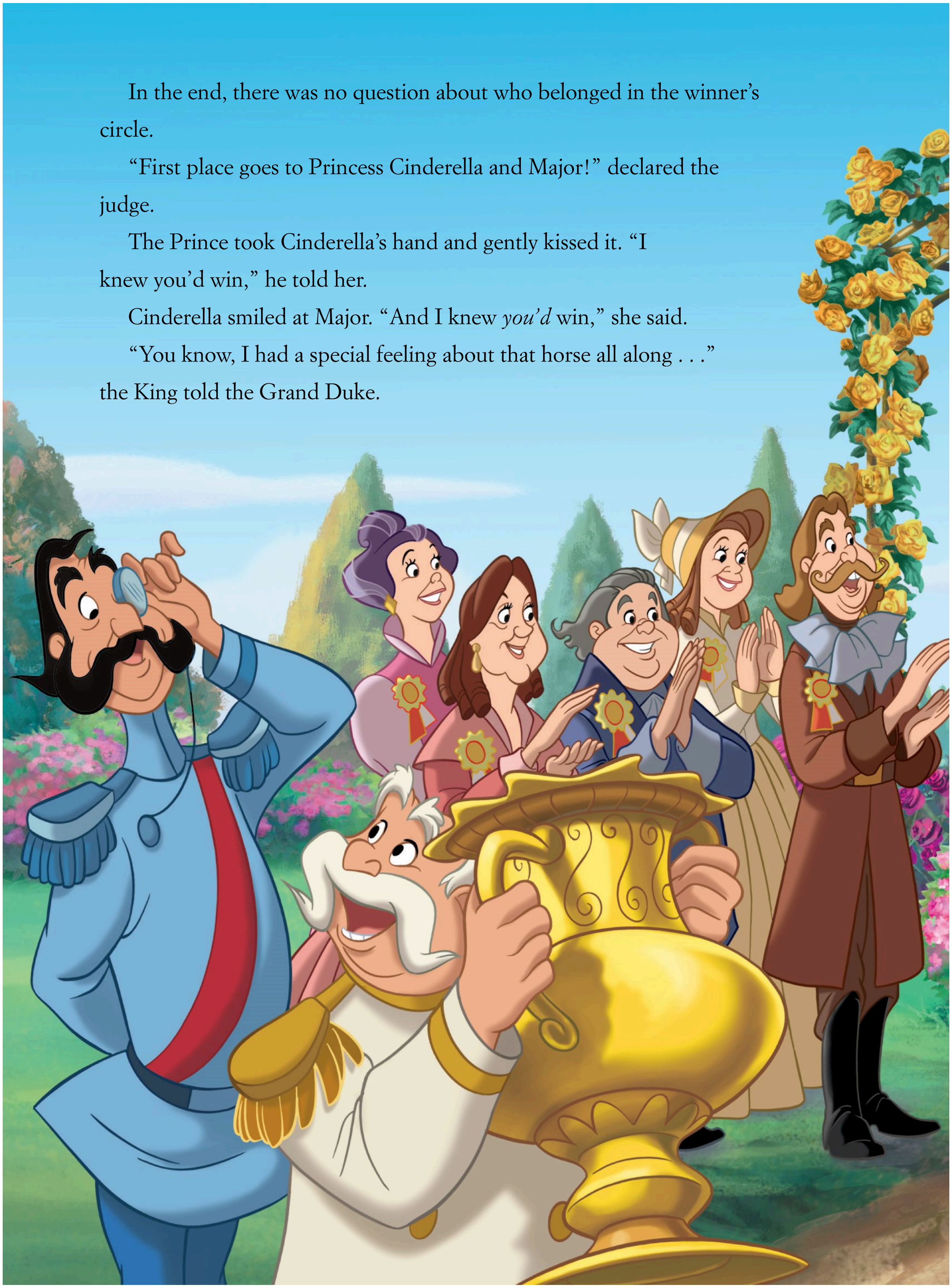
In the end, there was no question about who belonged in the winner's circle.

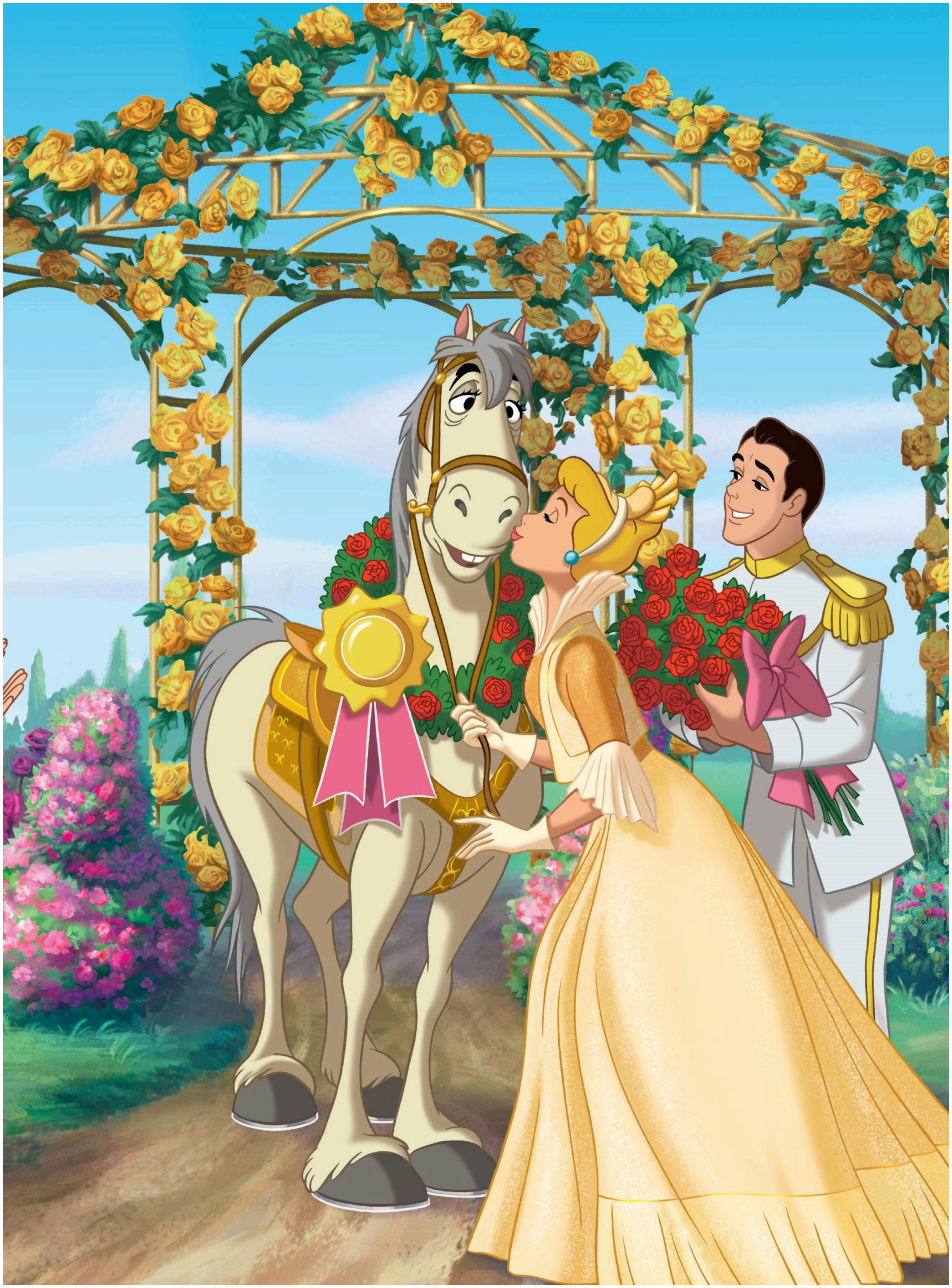
"First place goes to Princess Cinderella and Major!" declared the judge.

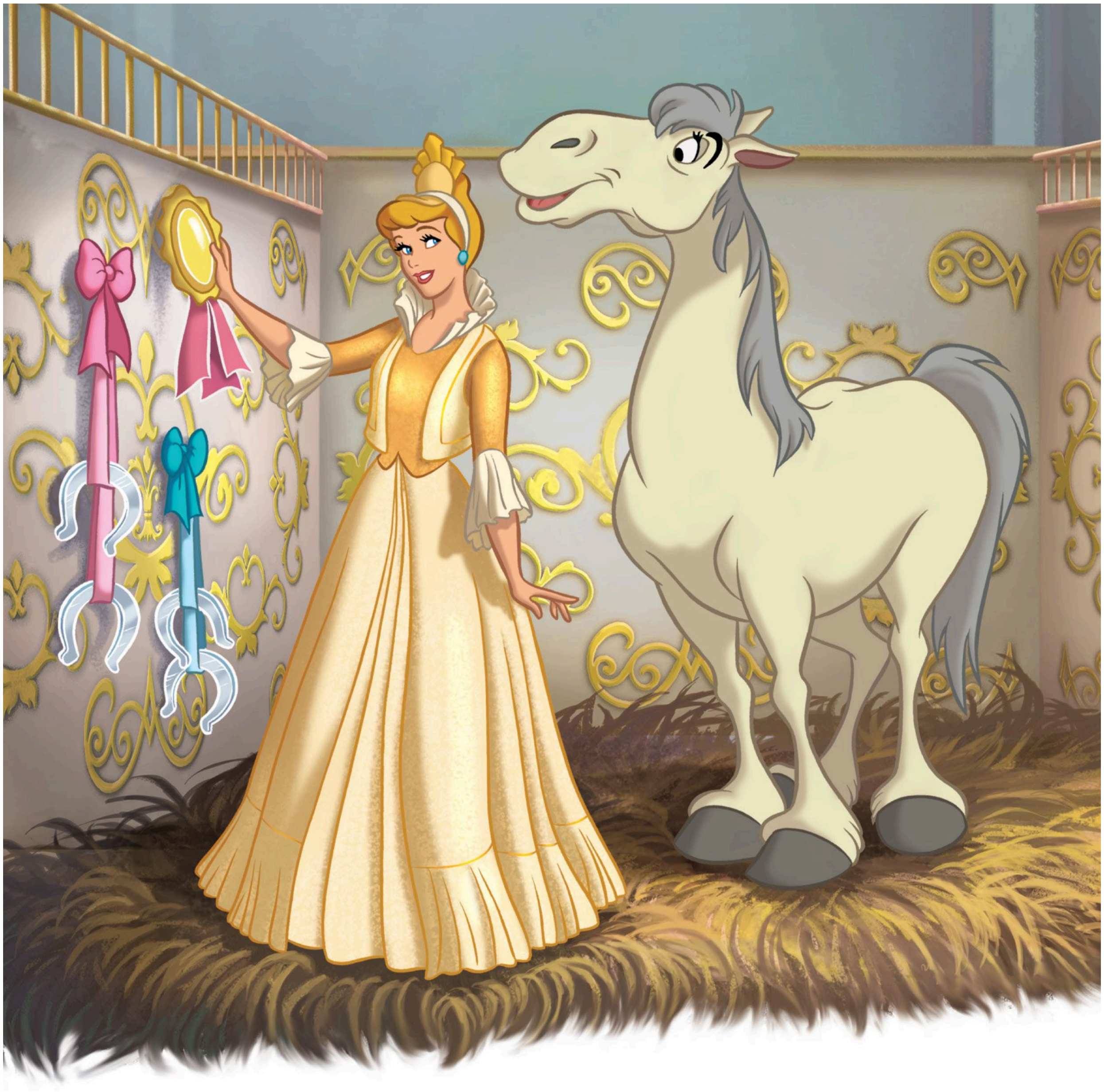
The Prince took Cinderella's hand and gently kissed it. "I knew you'd win," he told her.

Cinderella smiled at Major. "And I knew *you'd* win," she said.

"You know, I had a special feeling about that horse all along . . ." the King told the Grand Duke.







After the horse show, Major returned to his stall at the palace stable with his head a little higher, his back a little straighter, and his glass shoes at the ready for the next time duty called.

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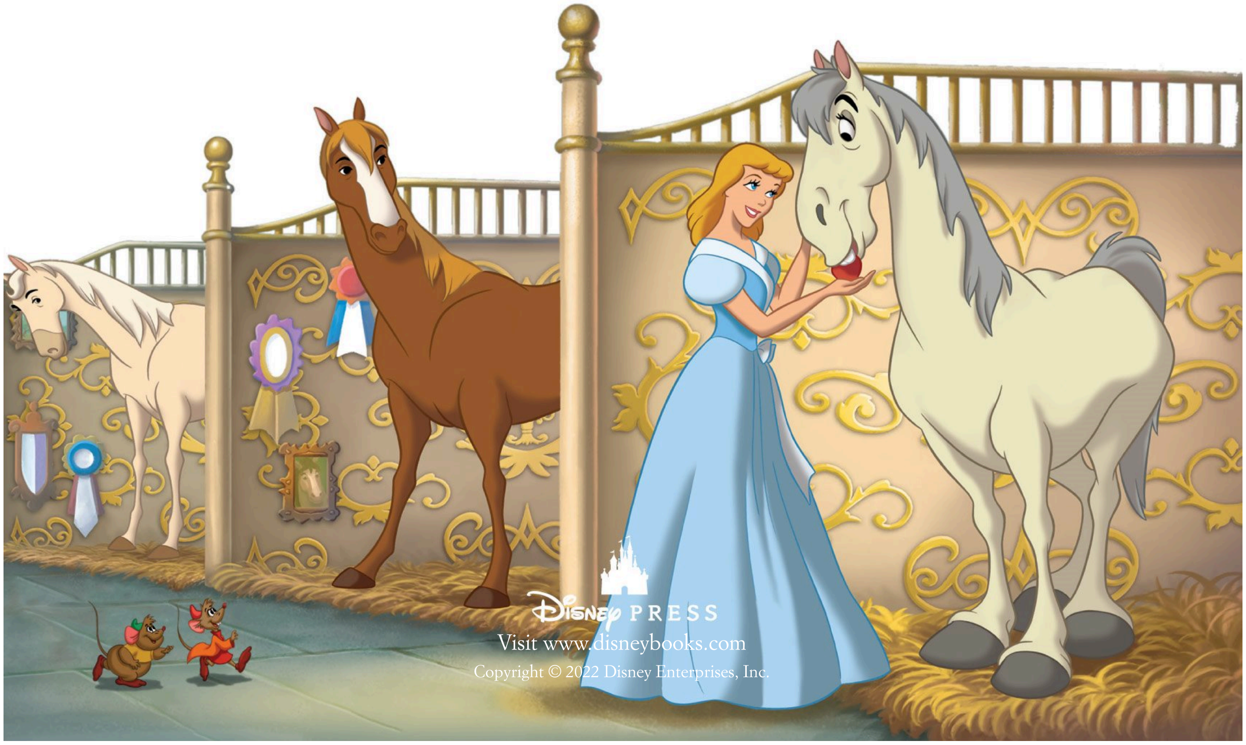

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